GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL

DURING

1902-1903.

00132979

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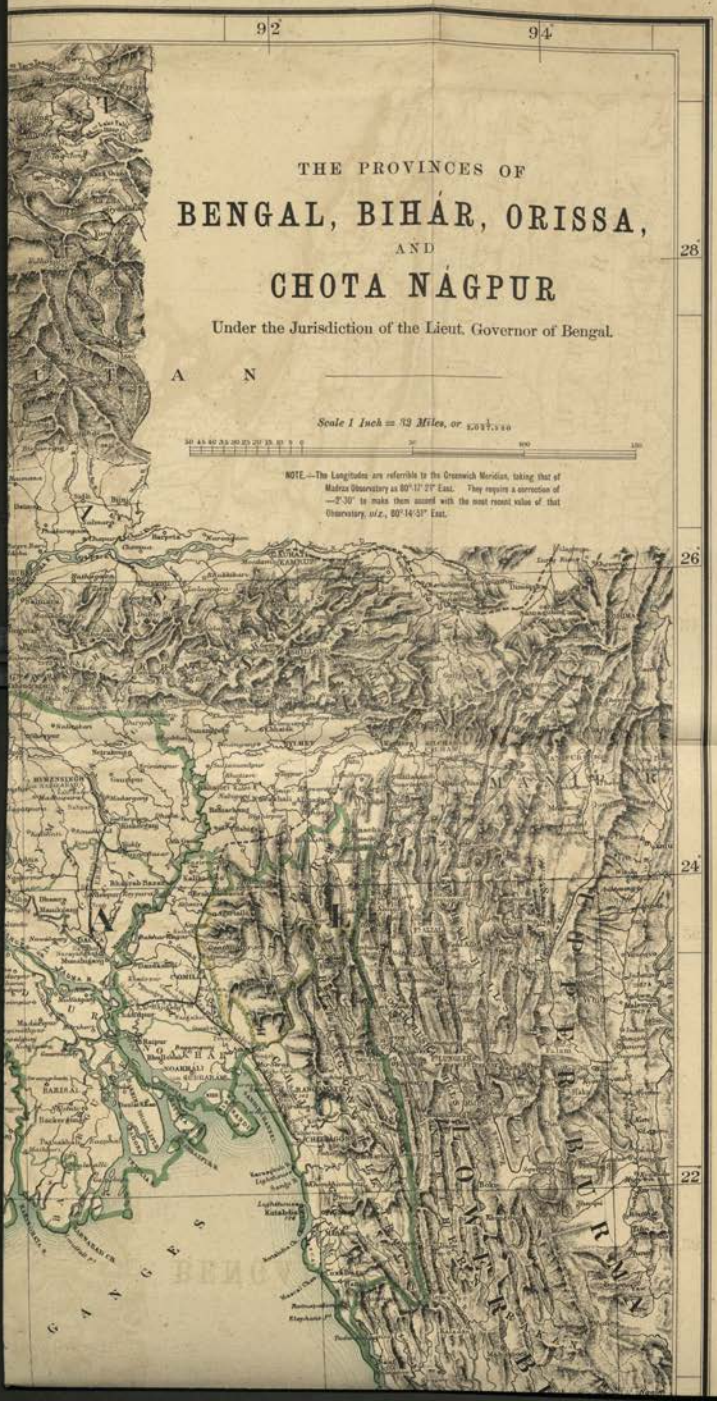
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THE PROVINCES OF
BENGAL, BIHÁR, ORISSA,
AND
CHOTA NÁGPUR
Under the Jurisdiction of the Lieut. Governor of Bengal.
A N
Scale 1 Inch = 32 Miles, or
NOTE.—The Longitudes are referrible to the Greenwich Meridian, taking that of Madras Observatory as 80°-17'-29" East. They require a correction of —2'-30" to make them accord with the most recent value of that Observatory, viz., 80°-14'-59" East.
BENGAL
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CHOTA NAGPUR

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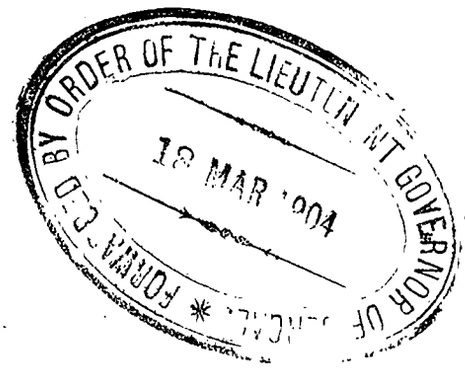
REPORT



ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1902-1903.

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GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1902-1903.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL DURING 1902-1903.

1. DARJEELING was the head-quarters of Government from the 10th April to the 18th July, and again from the 27th August to the 26th October. For the remainder of the year the head-quarters were at Calcutta.

The usual monsoon tour of the year commenced on the 19th July, and the following places were visited:—Dacca, Malda, Azimganj, Berhampur and Krishnagar.

Leaving Darjeeling on the 19th July, Sir John Woodburn travelled by rail to Goalundo; and, embarking there on board the *Rhotas*, reached Dacca on the 21st. There His Honour stayed till the 23rd, during which time he was a guest of the Nawab Bahadur. A proposed visit to Mymensingh had to be abandoned owing to the Lieutenant-Governor's sudden indisposition while at Dacca. Arrangements were, however, made for representatives of the disappointed district to go down to Goalundo; and an address was received from them there. A halt of two days at Malda was spent in inspecting the repairs to the ruins at Gaur and Pandua. Leaving Malda on the 2nd August, Sir John Woodburn proceeded to Berhampur, receiving, on the way, an address from the Municipal Commissioners of Azimganj. On his journey from Berhampur to Krishnagar, Sir John Woodburn visited the battle-field of Plassey. The *Rhotas* left Krishnagar on the morning of the 8th August; and, after a short stay near Navadwip, where the Lieutenant-Governor received an address from the Pandits of that place, reached Calcutta the same evening.

On the 11th idem, His Honour left Calcutta on a short visit to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh; and, on his return to Bengal, broke the journey at Darbhanga in order to lay the foundation-stone of the Victoria Hall, and to open a new Dharamsala. From Darbhanga, Sir John Woodburn went to Bhubaneswar in Orissa to inspect the repairs in progress at the temples there. After a day's halt at Cuttack, the Lieutenant-Governor returned to Howrah on the 21st; proceeding from there direct to Khulna *viâ* Jessore. At Khulna, His Honour embarked on board the *Rhotas*, and visited the Madaripur Bhil route, which it is proposed to open out by dredging, returning to Khulna the following morning. From Khulna he returned to Calcutta on the evening of the 23rd August.

On the 27th August, Sir John Woodburn left Calcutta for Darjeeling, where he was attacked by the disease to which he eventually succumbed on the 21st of November. After his death, the Hon'ble Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, C.S.I. (now Sir James Bourdillon, K.C.S.I.), acted as Lieutenant-Governor for the rest of the year.

On the 22nd of December, Mr. Bourdillon left Calcutta for Delhi in order to attend the Imperial Coronation Durbar, returning on the 13th January, 1903. On the 31st idem, His Honour left Calcutta for Muzaffarpur, where he inspected the Behar Light Horse. Returning to Calcutta on the 4th February, he visited Burdwan on the 9th idem, and installed the Maharaja Dhiraj Bijay Chand Mahtab Bahadur, who had recently come of age. He returned to Calcutta on the 11th idem. From the 9th to 13th March, His Honour was on tour in Orissa, visiting Cuttack, Puri, the temples at Bhubaneswar and the caves at Khandagiri.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

2. No important administrative changes occurred during the year.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Sikkim.

3. In Sikkim, severe hailstorms in April and May did considerable damage to the crops; the prices of food-grains in consequence ruling considerably higher than in the previous year. Public health was good; and no epidemics of cholera or small-pox occurred. The value of the trade with Tibet increased by 2½ lakhs; the result comparing favourably with that of the best years on record. The Maharaj Kumar was present at the Imperial Coronation Durbar at Delhi in the absence of his father, who was unable to attend.

Bhutan.

4. The Deb Raja of Bhutan died in December, 1902; and no successor has yet been appointed.

Cooch Behar.

5. In Cooch Behar, though heavy rain caused some damage to the crops, the year was one of fair prosperity, and the public health was good. The excise demand and the land revenue were practically collected in full. The work of the police was satisfactory; and there was but little heinous crime.

In the matter of education, the State compares very favourably with neighbouring districts in British territory, though the results of the examinations held during the year were not so good as in 1901-1902. His Highness the Maharaja attended the Coronation ceremonies in England as Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the King; and he was also present at the Delhi Coronation Durbar.

Hill Tippera.

6. In Tippera, the hill people suffered from failure of the cotton and oilseed crops: otherwise, the year was a prosperous one. The administration of the year was generally uneventful. Nearly three lakhs of rupees were spent on Public Works; but the greater portion of this amount was expended in Agartala, the State Capital. His Highness the Raja attended the Delhi Durbar.

Tributary and Political States of Chota Nagpur.

7. The administration of Udaipur, Bonai and Kharsawan was carried on, as in the preceding year, by managers, appointed by Government, working under the supervision of the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur. Serious disturbances broke out in Seraikela in connection with the resettlement made by the Raja; and it was found necessary to depute to the State

a European Deputy Collector, with a body of police, in order to restore order. The object of this deputation was achieved; and a fresh settlement by Government agency, as prayed for by the raiyats, has, since the close of the year, been decided on. The material condition of the people in the Tributary and Political States of Chota Nagpur during the year was generally satisfactory. Good crops resulted in a slight fall in the price of food-grains; and there were no outbreaks of disease.

Tributary Mahals of Orissa.

8. In most of the Tributary Mahals of Orissa prices were lower than in the previous year; and, though the year was an unhealthy one, the material condition of the people generally was satisfactory. Collections in the five States under Government management were good, except in Narsingpur, which suffered to some extent from drought. In Nayagarh, a failure of crops, following on a previous bad year, caused some distress; while a certain degree of scarcity was experienced in Daspalla and Boad.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE IN BENGAL.

9. The crops of the year were good; and the prices of staple food-grains were lower in most districts than in the previous year. The year was not generally a healthy one. On the other hand, though plague was prevalent in Calcutta and Behar, the mortality from this disease in the Province, taken as a whole, was not half as great as it was in the previous year. The report of the Collector of Customs shows that there was a considerable increase in the import of small luxuries; and, speaking generally, the people of the Province may be said to have enjoyed a greater measure of prosperity than in any year since 1898-1899.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

10. There was a considerable increase during the year in the number and value of money-orders sent in payment of land revenue and cesses. Numerous mistakes in the past having arisen owing to the fact that the three classes of public demand, viz:—(1) land revenue, (2) zamindari dâk cess, and (3) road and public works cesses, were entered together on one money-order form, it has been decided that two forms should be introduced with effect from the 1st April, 1904. One will be used for the remittance of land revenue and zamindari dák cess taken together, and the other for that of road and public works cesses. This measure should do much to promote the popularity of the money-order system of payment. As in previous years, the sale law was worked leniently; and less than 10 *per cent.* of the estates liable to sale were actually put up to auction. A decrease of nearly 80,000 in the number of certificate cases instituted resulted from the orders prohibiting the use of this procedure in respect of petty arrears, except in cases in which there is a risk that such sums will be barred by limitation.

LAND REGISTRATION.

11. There were 77,703 applications under the Land Registration Act for mutation of names, or roughly five *per cent.* of the actual number of

interests in existence. The Registers kept up under the provisions of the Act are reported to be in good order.

AGRICULTURAL BANKS.

12. The number of Agricultural Banks in existence at the close of the year was 48, of which 34 were in Government or Wards' Estates. Although it is too early to draw definite conclusions as to the ultimate success of the scheme, hopeful signs are not wanting.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

13. During the year, cadastral survey operations extended over 3,357 square miles; while initial records were written up for 3,303 square miles. The most important event of the year was the inception of operations in the Munda tract of the district of Ranchi, undertaken in consequence of the agrarian disturbances of 1899. A record-of-rights has now been completed for about one-fifth of the whole area of the Province.

LAND RECORDS.

14. The working of the Land Records Maintenance Act during the year confirms the conclusion, which had previously been arrived at, that this Act serves no useful purpose. Schemes for the maintenance of records in North Bihar, Chittagong and Orissa have been submitted for the consideration of the Government of India. A noticeable improvement in the record of mutations of names in Government and Wards' Estates has resulted owing to the issue of detailed instructions on the subject by the Board of Revenue.

GOVERNMENT, WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

15. The total collections in Government estates were more than 99 *per cent.* of the current demand. In Wards' and Attached estates, the payments of revenue and cesses due to Government represented 99·5 *per cent.* of the demand; while the total collections of rent and cesses amounted to 104·6 *per cent.* of the current demand. In October, 1902, the Burdwan Raj Estate was released from the management of the Court of Wards.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

16. The relations between landlord and tenant during the year were, on the whole, satisfactory; and the Bengal Tenancy Act worked smoothly. The most important event of the year, affecting relations between landlord and tenant, was the introduction in Council of a Bill to amend the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act, I (B.C.) of 1879, and the Chota Nagpur Commutation Act, IV (B.C.) of 1897. This measure became law after the close of the year under review.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

17. Six Acts, of which none were of great importance, were passed by the Bengal Council during the year.

POLICE.

18. The discipline of the police force during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory; and there was a slight falling off in the number of cases of police oppression. Increased attention was paid to the development of the village chaukidari force; and, though there are still a few districts where the good results to be expected from a system of judiciously rewarding deserving men have not been sufficiently appreciated, the total number of chaukidars rewarded was considerably higher than in the previous year.

The total number of offences reported was but little less than in the preceding year. Much wider use was made of the discretion, given by section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code, to refuse investigation; and the percentage of refusals to make enquiry rose from 20·5 to 35·2 in house-breaking cases, and from 14·1 to 20 in theft cases. The most noticeable features of the crime statistics of the year were a decrease in the number of burglaries and riots, and an increase in drugging cases and cases relating to coins, stamps and currency notes.

Further proof of the value of the system of taking thumb-impressions was afforded by the fact that the percentage of reconvictions (13·1) was the highest on record. An unsatisfactory feature of the year's work was the increase in the number of remands in police cases. The percentage of such cases disposed of at the first two hearings has fallen steadily during the last four years, viz:—from 54·6 in 1899 to 48·6 in the year under review; and there would appear to be a growing tendency on the part of the courts to be more and more dilatory in dealing with these cases.

19. In Calcutta, the total number of cognisable cases increased by nearly 18 *per cent.* Practically, the whole of the increase occurred in cases under the Police Act; and, though the figures under this head still fall short of those for 1899 and 1900, the rise doubtless indicates that the police force have regained, to a large extent, the confidence of the public which they lost in the period following the Calcutta Carters' strike of June, 1901. Cognisable crime, exclusive of offences under the Police Act, the Nuisance laws and the Cruelty to Animals Act, showed a material decrease during the year. An unsatisfactory feature of the work of the year was a large increase in the number of cases under investigation by the courts at the close of the year. There were also indications that the Magistracy were too ready to deal summarily with old offenders who should have been committed to the Sessions Court.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

20. The only material change made during the year in the number and constitution of the Criminal Courts of the Province was the opening of a new subdivision at Gumla in the Ranchi district.

The year was marked by a further decline in the work of courts of first instance. There was a slight increase in the appellate work of Magistrates, with a corresponding decline in their revisional work. In the Courts of Sessions, a decline in the sessions work of the year enabled the Judges to reduce their pending files. There was also a slight decline in their appellate work; and a consequent reduction of arrears of such work at close of the year. In the High Court, there was an increase in the

number of appeals from sentences passed by Sessions Judges and the Presidency Magistrates, and a considerable increase in applications under section 435 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

JAILS.

21. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes confined in the jails of the Province during the year was the highest on record since the year 1876, which followed a period of famine and distress. The average daily population was 21,717; while the total accommodation available on the last day of the year was for 23,527 prisoners. Over one and-a-half lakhs of rupees were spent during the year on original works. In view, however, of the small margin existing between actual jail population and available space, it seems clear that considerable extensions of buildings will have to be made at no distant date. Although, as usual, a few jails, owing to special and unavoidable causes, returned a high mortality, the death-rate of the jails generally was lower than in any of the last ten years, except 1898 and 1899; while it was very much below the Provincial death-rate. There was a satisfactory decrease in the number of jail offences; and the profits from jail industries were considerably above those of the previous year.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

22. The number of original suits pending before the High Court at the close of the year was considerably in excess of the number pending at the commencement of the year. There was also a large increase in the number of appeals pending at the close of the year, owing to the greater number of first and second appeals preferred from the orders of subordinate Courts. It is estimated that, at the close of the year, over two years' appellate work was pending.

The number of cases instituted in the subordinate Civil Courts increased largely during the year, chiefly owing to a considerable increase of rent-suits in the districts recently brought under cadastral survey. There was a satisfactory decrease in the number of suits pending at the close of the year. On the other hand, the number of pending appeal cases increased by nearly 1,500.

REGISTRATION OF DOCUMENTS.

23. There was an increase of $3\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* in the number of documents registered; and the receipts of the department rose from Rs. 16,17,727 to Rs. 16,80,111.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Municipalities outside Calcutta.

24. Two new municipalities were constituted during the year, viz:—one at Dumka in the Sonthal Parganas, and the other at Nawabganj in the district of Malda. The addition of these two municipalities brought the total number of municipalities in existence at the end of the year to 159.

The opinions expressed by the Divisional Commissioners on the work done by these bodies are, for the most part, eulogistic, though complaints are made of instances of inadequate or unfair assessment, careless supervision and unsatisfactory collections. With the object of checking abuses in connection with the assessment of Municipal taxes, Government has formulated a scheme for the establishment of a trained staff of permanent assessors,

to deal in rotation with all the municipalities included in the scheme and to be maintained by *pro rata* contributions from each municipality. This scheme is, at present, under the consideration of local officers and Municipal Commissioners.

The collections of the year were, on the whole, satisfactory; the outstanding balance at the close of the year being 9·9 *per cent.* of the current demand. In 23 of the municipalities practically the whole demand was collected.

The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 47,53,072, representing an increase of nearly 2 lakhs over the figures for the preceding year. More than half of the increased expenditure occurred under the head of "water-supply"; large schemes being in progress in the Darjeeling and Garden Reach Municipalities. More or less important drainage schemes were in progress, or under consideration, in a large number of municipalities, notably in the districts of Nadia and the 24-Parganas. During the year, special attention was paid to improvements in the town of Puri, where the need for adequate sanitation is of cardinal importance, on account of the large number of pilgrims who go there annually from all parts of India.

Calcutta Municipality.

25. The Calcutta Municipality continued to do useful work during the year. The difficulties in connection with the Suburban Drainage scheme were overcome; and work has been commenced. The progress made in the introduction of the system for the continuous supply of filtered water has not been equally satisfactory. It has been decided, however, to materially strengthen the staff and to employ an expert from England; and better results may be anticipated in future. The District system, described in last year's report, continued to give excellent results. The Collection Department realised over 99 *per cent.* of the net demand; and almost the whole of this amount was collected without recourse to coercive measures. The reorganisation of the Accounts Department was proceeded with; while the Building Department was placed under the charge of an Architect and Building Surveyor who was engaged, for the purpose, from England.

The total net expenditure of the year exceeded that of the previous year by over 8 lakhs. Good progress was made with the construction of the new Municipal Office building; while two new district offices were in process of erection. Much was done in the direction of improving or demolishing insanitary bustees. Several new public squares were opened; and, with the help of Government, extensive improvements were carried out in the commercial quarter of the town.

The first General election of Commissioners under the new Municipal Act took place in March, 1903. Although candidates came forward in every Ward, seats were contested in only two cases.

Puri Lodging House Act.

26. The Puri Lodging-House Act worked satisfactorily during the year in all places in which it was in force. In Orissa, a large number of deaths from cholera occurred, owing to the outbreak of that disease at the time of the Car festival, notwithstanding the fact that strict sanitary precautions were taken; while, nearly 100 deaths from the same disease, which occurred in Nadia, were ascribed to infection imported by pilgrims from Puri. In other respects, public health was good in the places in which the Act was in force.

District Boards.

27. The number of District Boards remained stationary at 42; while the number of Local Boards decreased from 106 to 104, in consequence of the

abolition of the Sadar Local Boards at Darbhanga and Gaya. The Divisional Commissioners are agreed that the District Boards generally displayed praiseworthy zeal in the execution of the duties entrusted to them.

Both the receipts and expenditure of the year were considerably higher than in 1901-1902. The largest increase in expenditure occurred under the head of "Education." This increase, which was over four lakhs, was shared by practically every district; and was chiefly due to the receipt of special grants from Government for the improvement of Primary Education, and for the appointment of additional Sub-Inspectors of Schools. Increased expenditure was also incurred on the construction and maintenance of roads; Government having made a further grant of Rs. 5,00,000 during the year for the improvement of communications. Much attention was paid to the provision of feeder-roads to railways and to the improvement of existing roads of the class; while several light railway projects were under consideration during the year.

A draft Bill to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act was submitted to the Government of India for consideration and orders in November, 1902. The observations and suggestions of that Government were communicated in August last; and the Bill, after further revision, has lately been submitted to the Secretary of State with a request for permission to introduce it in Council.

MARINE.

The Port of Calcutta.

28. Although the number of vessels arriving at and leaving the port of Calcutta was 90 less than in the previous year, the pilotage receipts showed a slight increase of a little over 1 *per cent.* There were no serious casualties during the year. The death-rate in hospital amongst European seamen was a little higher than in the preceding year, but was considerably below the quinquennial mean.

Calcutta Shipping Office.

29. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office slightly exceeded those of 1901-1902, owing to an increase in shipping and discharging fees. The new Branch Shipping Office at Kidderpore is expected to be completed during the current year.

Calcutta Port Trust.

30. The revenue of the Calcutta Port Trust was Rs. 77,27,412, and the expenditure Rs. 72,70,468, the surplus being Rs. 4,56,944. This surplus has been added to the Revenue Reserve Fund, which now stands at Rs. 16,74,971. The Port Trust Capital debt was reduced by Rs. 2,31,010; while a sinking fund, amounting to Rs. 38,03,617, has been accumulated by annual contributions from Revenue with the object of clearing off the debt, as suitable opportunities occur. The receipts under the head of "Jetties" show a falling off, owing mainly to a reduction of the rates for landing charges and the abolition of the charges for removing goods. Under other heads, the receipts show an increase. The number of vessels berthed at the Jetties was 236, as against 230 during the previous year. Dock receipts and expenditure both shewed an increase.

The second dry dock will soon be ready for use; while it is proposed to extend largely the accommodation for the grain traffic. It is also proposed to construct a large warehouse at the Jetties for cargo awaiting delivery, and special warehouses for teas for export.

31. A smaller number of vessels entered the port of Chittagong during the year, owing chiefly to a short jute crop, and to the fact that this staple now enters the town chiefly by rail. Port of Chittagong.

A Bill to amend the Chittagong Port Commissioners' Act, so as to enable that body to levy a river due, not exceeding four annas per ton, on all goods landed from, or shipped into, any sea-going vessel visiting the Port, was passed into law shortly after the close of the year.

32. The trade of the Orissa ports, which has steadily declined since the opening of the East Coast Railway, revived to some extent during the year, owing to larger shipments of rice from Cuttack and Puri, and of jute and certain other articles from Balasore. The Ports of Orissa.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

33. Various scientific enquiries were instituted, or continued, during the year under the supervision of the Director of Land Records. One of the subjects which received close examination was the effect of the imposition of countervailing duties on country sugar. The enquiries made went to show that the duties had, so far, failed to stimulate the indigenous cultivation of sugar or to arrest the decay of the sugar-refining industry. Investigations into the alleged deterioration of jute were continued during the year; while experiments with various manures, crops and methods of cultivation were carried on, as in previous years, at the Burdwan and Dumraon Experimental Farms. Scientific Enquiries.

34. The Bengal Silk Committee, with the assistance of Government, continued to do useful work by promoting the revival of the silk-rearing industry. Sericulture.

35. Greater attention is now being paid to the provision of instruction in agricultural methods at schools; and Government sanctioned, during the year under review, as an experimental measure, the establishment of demonstration gardens in connection with a few Secondary schools in the division of each Inspector of Schools, as also the opening of agricultural classes in certain selected High English schools. Agricultural Education.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

36. The rainfall of the year was below the normal, except in the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions.

The outturn for the whole Province of all the crops taken together amounted to 90 *per cent.* of the normal, as against 78 *per cent.* in 1901-1902.

HORTICULTURE.

37. At the Royal Botanic Garden, attention was paid, as usual, to the propagation and study of plants of economic importance; fibre-yielding plants and yams being selected for special investigation.

FORESTS.

38. The only important change made during the year in the area under Forests was the disforestation of 86 square miles of protected

forest in the Sundarbans Division. Good progress was made in the preparation of working-plans. Forest fires did considerable damage in the Angul and Darjeeling Divisions. The total outturn of wood and fuel was much below that of the previous year, owing mainly to the prohibition of the felling of undersized *sundri* timber in the Sundarbans Division.

MANUFACTURES, MINES AND FACTORIES.

39. The jute crop was a short one, being only 80 *per cent.* of a normal crop; while the total outturn was estimated at 528,000 bales, as compared with 650,000 bales in the preceding year. There were 35 jute and ten cotton mills at work in Bengal during the year, which gave employment to 117,810 and 11,000 persons, respectively. The quantity of tea manufactured was slightly below the outturn in 1901-1902; the object of those interested in the industry being to restrict cultivation and production. The indigo season was a most disastrous one, the outturn of the crop being the lowest on record. There were 306 coal-mines at work in Bengal during the year, giving employment to 82,545 persons. The total output was 6,259,236 tons, or 771,649 tons in excess of the outturn of the preceding year. The season was a prosperous one at the Government Cinchona plantation, which turned out 16,275 lbs. of manufactured products.

40. The total number of factories under the operation of the Indian Factories Act at the close of the year was 259. Only three prosecutions were instituted under the Act during the year. Although there was a large increase in the number of accidents reported, nearly all of them were due to carelessness or negligence on the part of the operatives concerned.

TRADE.

Foreign Trade.

41. The value of the foreign sea-borne trade of the Province, which was estimated at 93¼ crores of rupees, was lower than in the two preceding years. Nearly 98 *per cent.* of this trade is centred in Calcutta; Chittagong absorbing 1·7 *per cent.* only. The exports of jute from the latter port are considerable. Also, during the last two years, a considerable export trade in tea has sprung up there, owing to the facilities afforded for shipment by the opening of the Assam-Bengal Railway, and the establishment of a steamer service in direct communication with Europe.

Articles of import and export.

42. Among the articles of import, cotton goods, as usual, represented about half the total value; and, next in importance, came iron and steel, petroleum, sugar and machinery. About four-fifths of the total value of the imports came from Europe; while 69 *per cent.* of this amount was received from the United Kingdom. Among the articles of export, jute, raw and manufactured, represented about 37 *per cent.* of the total value of foreign exports. About 54 *per cent.* of the export trade was with European countries, the United Kingdom taking about 31 *per cent.* of this amount.

Frontier trade.

43. The frontier trade of the Province by land with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan was valued at 283 lakhs of rupees; about nine-tenths of this amount representing trade with Nepal. It is noteworthy that the value of the imports into Bengal from these countries (159

lakhs) is considerably greater than that of the exports (103⅓ lakhs) from Bengal to them.

External and internal trade of Bengal.

44. Of the trade with other Provinces and parts of India, that by sea was valued at about 12 crores of rupees. Of this amount, imports, principally rice and kerosene oil from Burma, represented nearly 5 crores; and exports, chiefly coal, grain and pulse, and gunny-bags, 7 crores. The external trade of Bengal by rail and river was valued at over 40½ crores of rupees; the imports, consisting principally of produce brought down to Calcutta for export over sea, being valued at about 23⅓ crores. The exports were valued at over 17⅓ crores; and consisted chiefly of goods imported into Calcutta by sea. Of a like nature, but of somewhat greater value is the internal trade of the Province with its chief port; the total imports into Calcutta from the Bengal districts being valued at over 37 crores, and the exports at nearly 22 crores.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.

Imperial works.

45. In addition to the works in connection with the proof-range at Chandipur and the combined Foreign and Military Secretariats at Calcutta, the only important Imperial work in progress was the construction of a temporary check station at Barrackpore in connection with the Magnetic Survey of India.

Provincial works.

46. Additional accommodation was provided for several of the Civil and Criminal Courts in the Province. Considerable expenditure was incurred on Jail buildings. A few new buildings were erected for the police. Extra accommodation was provided for some of the educational institutions. The new buildings for the Presidency General Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum at Berhampore were almost completed. A large number of residences were constructed for munsifs; and a fair beginning was made in the matter of providing residences for Government officials in stations where it is becoming difficult to secure accommodation.

COMMUNICATIONS.

47. In the Darjeeling district, special repairs were carried out on the Tista Valley Road and the Darjeeling Hill Cart Road. The construction of new roads, and the improvement of existing ones, in the Jalpaiguri district received attention. Feeder roads to the South Bihar Railway in the Monghyr district were under construction. Also, steps were taken for connecting the south-western portion of the Ranchi district with the Native State of Gangpur.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

48. There is little to record under this head beyond the completion of the protective works in the town of Darjeeling, and the granting of licenses for Electric Lighting in the towns of Howrah and Dacca.

RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

49. As in previous years, the main lines and their branches were administered directly by the Government of India; only a few short branches and light railways, constructed by local enterprise, being administered by the Government of Bengal.

The total mileage within the Province at the close of the year was 4,314 miles. During the year 273¾ miles were newly opened, of which 214¼ were on the standard, and 59½ on the metre, gauge. There were 660·35 miles under construction. The survey of 404 miles, in connection with proposed extensions to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, the Eastern Bengal State Railway and the East Indian Railway, was completed; while a survey for a line from Hariharpur to Asansol, 52 miles in length, as an extension to the East Indian Railway, was in progress.

The most important matters under discussion during the year were:—

(1) The consideration of the terms to be given in order to encourage the construction of branch lines;

(2) The construction of the Ranaghat-Godagari-Katihar Railway, including the question of the site for a bridge over the Ganges; and

(3) The alignment of the proposed Bankura-Calcutta Chord.

Light Railways. Of light railways, the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway and the Howrah-Amta Light Railway shewed the best results, returning over 10 *per cent.* on their capital outlay. The construction of the Bihar-Buktiarpur Light Railway, and an extension of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway to Champadanga, were in progress. An extension of the Tarkessur-Mugra Light Railway to Tribeni was sanctioned; while a line from Barasat to Basirhat was under consideration.

CANALS.

General. 50. The Major Irrigation Works in Bengal are the Orissa, Midnapore, Hijili Tidal, and Sone, Canals. The Hijili Tidal Canal is for navigation only; while the others are for both irrigation and navigation. The total area irrigated by the canals during the year was 796,029 acres, or 45,097 acres less than in the previous year. The decrease was chiefly due to a large decline in the areas under early spring crops irrigated from the Sone Canals.

Receipts. 51. The receipts during the year from irrigation, navigation and miscellaneous sources were Rs. 21,14,356, or Rs. 3,41,450 in excess of the receipts for the previous year. The large increase was, for the most part, due to larger receipts, during the year under review, on account of areas irrigated from the Sone Canals in 1901-1902.

52. Considerable progress was made with the Tribeni and Dhaka Canals, as also with the improvement of the Madaripur Bhil route for steamer traffic.

Irrigation Commission. 53. The Irrigation Commission visited Bengal during the cold weather of 1902-1903, holding meetings at Bankipur, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Purulia, Calcutta and Cuttack, and examining a large number of witnesses, official and non-official.

EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE.

54. The total length of embankments maintained during the year was 2,159 miles; the area protected being 8,906,462 acres. The total expenditure incurred on embankment and drainage works was Rs. 5,13,748, of which Rs. 4,50,022 were spent on work connected with embankments.

During the year, orders were passed on Mr. Horn's report as to the feasibility of taking measures to mitigate the extensive damage frequently caused by floods in the Damodar river. It was decided that any complete scheme of relief was beyond the resources of the State; and that Government action must be confined to such minor measures as were found, from time to time, to be practicable.

55. The contract between Government and the local zamindars for the maintenance of the Midnapore embankments was renewed for a period of 15 years, with effect from the 1st April, 1904, at an annual charge of Rs. 49,761.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

56. Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 14,97,83,449, as against Rs. 15,78,53,484 in 1901-1902; and the charges were Rs. 3,26,51,840, as compared with Rs. 3,17,45,336 in the preceding year. The decrease in receipts was chiefly under the head of "Opium," due to a fall in the prices obtained at the Calcutta sales. The increase on the expenditure side was also chiefly under the same head, owing mainly to heavier payments to cultivators in consequence of a larger crop outturn.

LAND REVENUE.

57. The total current Land Revenue demand increased from Rs. 4,00,90,038 in 1901-1902 to Rs. 4,02,59,280 in the year under review. The increase was shared by all three classes of estates, *viz*:—permanently-settled estates, temporarily-settled estates, and estates held direct by Government. It is satisfactory to notice that the total collections, as also the percentage of current collections on current demand, and of the total collections on the total demand, were better than in any year of the preceding quinquennium; while the total balance outstanding at the close of the year was the lowest on record during the same period.

CUSTOMS.

58. Two important changes were made in import duties during the year, *viz*:—(1) a reduction in the duty on salt from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2 per maund, and (2) the imposition, by Act VIII of 1902, of additional duties on sugar benefitted by the trade combinations known as "Cartels."

The net revenue from Customs during the year amounted to Rs. 4,62,26,108.

A Commission sat in November and December, 1902, to consider measures for the simplification of procedure in the Custom House. As a result of their recommendations, several salutary changes have been effected in the working of the Department.

OPIUM.

59. There was a failure of the rains in both the Agencies. In the Bihar Agency, there was a further small decrease in the area

which the *raiyats* engaged to cultivate. In the Benares Agency, on the other hand, the previous year's decrease in the area settled was, to some extent, made good. The average outturn per bigha showed a decline of 10 *chhatáks* in the Bihar Agency, and a rise of 7 *chhatáks* in Benares. An increase in the amounts advanced for the construction of wells was noticeable in both Agencies, especially in Benares. The most important feature of the year was the introduction, throughout the Bihar Agency, of a system of payments in direct communication with the *raiyats*, instead of, as formerly, entirely through the *khatadars*, or middlemen. The total outturn of provision opium during the year was 44,724 chests. Prices were considerably lower than in the preceding year, owing chiefly to a fall in the exchange value of silver.

SALT.

60. With effect from the 18th March, 1903, the rate of duty upon salt manufactured in any part of British India (other than Burma, certain mines in the Kohat district and Aden), or imported by land into any part of British India (except Burma), was reduced from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2 a maund. The net revenue during the year under review, which amounted to Rs. 2,63,61,090, shewed an increase of 3·3 *per cent.* over the revenue of the previous year.

There was a large decline in the imports of salt during the year, due to the existence of large stocks at the end of 1901-1902. Imports into Chittagong, however, shewed a further advance of nearly 77 *per cent*; the increase being attributed to larger demands from the adjacent districts, owing to improved facilities for transport. Nearly one-half of the total imports came from the United Kingdom. English salt, however, is being slowly replaced by salt imported from Aden and the Red Sea.

The average wholesale price of salt for the whole Province was Rs. 3-10-9, that is, two annas less than the price obtaining in the previous year. The consumption per head in the saliferous tracts, including Orissa, was 5 seers, 15 *chhatáks;* and, in the rest of the Province, it was 5 seers, 7 *chhatáks.*

EXCISE.

61. The net revenue from Excise, which was over one and-a-half crores of rupees, was the largest on record; the greatest increase occurring, as in the previous year, under the head of "Country Spirits." The incidence of excise revenue during the year was 3 annas, 3 pies per head. There was a large decline in the number of arrests for offences against the Excise and Opium Laws, due chiefly to a decrease in the number of cases of illicit distillation in the Sonthal Parganas. Seventy-eight persons in all were convicted of illicit sale of cocaine. Outside Calcutta, the use of this drug as an intoxicant is reported to be confined to the districts of Hooghly, Murshidabad, Bhagalpur and Purnea. A Bill to amend and consolidate the Bengal Excise Act, VII (B.C.) of 1878, has, since the close of the year, been introduced in Council.

STAMPS.

62. The revenue collected during the year under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 1,95,68,939. An increase of Rs. 5,63,380

over the previous year's figures occurred under the heads of "Judicial" and "Non-judicial" stamps.

INCOME-TAX.

63. The net revenue from Income-Tax, which was Rs. 56,54,324, shewed an increase of nearly 4 *per cent.* over the revenue of 1901-1902. The minimum yearly income assessable was raised, with effect from the beginning of the year 1903-1904, from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000.

FOREST REVENUE.

64. The year's surplus from Forests was Rs. 6,07,241. Receipts declined by Rs. 53,023, owing chiefly to the prohibition of the export of undersized *sundri* logs from the Sundarbans.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

65. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 49,05,782, and closed with one of Rs. 53,14,848; the result being a surplus of Rs. 4,09,066. The receipts, which amounted to Rs. 5,23,85,786, shewed an increase of Rs. 28,16,939 over those of the previous year. Of this amount, 18 lakhs are accounted for by the special assignments of 10 lakhs and 8 lakhs granted by the Government of India for expenditure on Education and Public Works, respectively. The rest of the increase occurred chiefly under the heads of "Stamps," "Excise" and "Irrigation, Major Works." The total Provincial expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,19,76,720, as against Rs. 4,89,24,677 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 30,52,043. Of this sum, nearly 12 lakhs were spent under the head of "Civil Works;" nearly $7\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs represented contributions from Provincial revenues to Local Funds for educational purposes; while large sums were expended under the heads of "General Administration," "Courts of Law," "Police," "Education" and "Irrigation (Minor Works and Navigation)."

LOCAL FINANCE.

66. The total receipts of the Incorporated Local Funds amounted to Rs. 1,23,44,290, and the charges to Rs. 1,18,02,799; the balance being thus increased by nearly $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. The total receipts from the Excluded Local Funds (exclusive of Municipal Funds) amounted to Rs. 9,08,931, and the charges to Rs. 8,01,790; the closing balance being increased by about one lakh. A special grant of Rs. 11,000, in addition to the yearly grant of Rs. 20,000, was made by Government to the Committee of the Zoological Garden for the purpose of effecting certain necessary improvements.

ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSES.

67. These cesses were, as in the preceding year, levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the 43 districts in which the Cess Act, IX (B. C.) of 1880, is in force. An increase in the current demand of Rs. 2,67,658 was accompanied by an increase in collections of Rs. 3,21,179. By the close of the year, the percentage of the outstanding balance to the total demand had fallen to 14·5. Valuations and revaluations, partial or complete, were, at the end of the year, in progress in 28 of the districts to which the Cess Act has been extended.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

68. The birth-rate, though higher than in the two preceding years, was still below that recorded in 1899. The death-rate was nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ *per mille* higher than in the preceding year, owing chiefly, it is reported, to the greater prevalence of fever and cholera. No district was immune from cholera; while deaths from fever formed 69 *per cent.* of the whole number reported.

During the year, plague was prevalent in Calcutta, in the districts of Bihar, in Hazaribagh, and, to some extent, in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. Though the total recorded mortality for the Province was not half as great as it was in the previous year, in Calcutta the number of deaths reported shewed but little variation. The epidemic followed much the same course as in previous years, reaching its zenith early in April, and, thenceforward, steadily declining. The measures adopted in Calcutta in dealing with the disease were disinfection, and, in cases in which disinfection could not be satisfactorily carried out, the demolition of houses. In the mufassal, the principal expedients that were resorted to were the evacuation of houses and disinfection. The people of the infected areas generally evinced greater readiness than in previous years to co-operate in the measures taken for their relief. The inspection stations at Chausa and Mairwa on the North-West frontier of the Province were closed during the year; their retention having been considered unnecessary, in view of the fact that the Government of the United Povinces of Agra and Oudh had opened inspecting stations at Fatehpur and Bhatni. Inspection at the Cuttack Railway Station was also discontinued; and Siliguri on the Eastern Bengal State Railway is now the only place where this system is still in force. During the year, the plague restrictions imposed on pilgrim traffic to the Hedjaz were removed.

EMIGRATION.

Colonial Emigration.

69. The number of emigrants who embarked for the colonies was roughly 10 *per cent.* less than in the previous year. The largest number went to Natal, where the prospects of the Indian immigrant are far better than in any other Colony for which recruiting in India is allowed. The greater number of emigrants were, as usual, recruited in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

Inland Emigration.

70. Various orders were passed during the year with the object of preventing irregular recruitment of emigrants for Assam. The total number of emigrants despatched to the labour districts during the year was 27,589, of whom 11,358 were recruited in Bengal and the rest in Madras and the Central Provinces. With the object of effecting an economy in expenditure from the Inland Transport Fund, the post of Medical Inspector of Inland Emigrants was, during the year, amalgamated with that of Superintendent of Emigration.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

71. Notwithstanding the fact that the public health of Calcutta during the year was better than in 1901, the attendance of both in-patients and out-patients at the several public medical institutions was higher than in the preceding year; while the total number of female patients was the highest on record during the last ten years. During the year, the Voluntary Venereal Hospital at Sealdah was abolished, its maintenance having been found to be unnecessary. Calcutta Institutions.

72. In the mufassal, 24 new charitable dispensaries were opened, the number of these institutions in existence at the end of the year being 574. The number of out-door patients treated was the highest on record; while that of indoor patients was only surpassed in the famine year of 1897. These results are attributed to the opening of new dispensaries, the unhealthiness of the year, and the disappearance of the panic caused by the outbreak of plague. Not the least satisfactory feature of the year was the largely increased attendance of women and children, owing to improved arrangements made for their treatment in the various dispensaries. There was a large increase in the amount of subscriptions; and the working of the year goes to shew that the financial position of these institutions has been improved by the dissociation of their finances from those of their controlling authorities. Mufassal Dispensaries.

73. The Eden Sanitarium continued to maintain its popularity during the year; the daily average number of patients being largely in excess of that of the previous year. Considerable expenditure was incurred on the furnishing and equipping of the new hospital block; and Government found it necessary to help the Committee with a grant of Rs. 5,000. Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

74. During the year, a part of the Leper Asylum at Purulia, maintained by the Mission to Lepers in India and the East, was declared by Government to be a Leper Asylum for the purposes of the Leper Act. A Board was appointed; and rules were laid down for the management of the Asylum. Leper Asylum.

75. The population of the several lunatic asylums of the Province was much the same as in the previous year. Roughly one-half of the inmates were criminal lunatics. Lunatic Asylums

VACCINATION.

76. The number of operations carried out in the Province shewed a considerable increase. This increase was not, however, shared by Calcutta, where the Corporation found it necessary to consider special measures to enforce compliance with the law.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION.

77. The most noticeable features in the history of education in the Province during the year under review were:—(1) the introduction of the new

scheme of vernacular education in Primary and Secondary schools, one of the main principles underlying which is that Indian boys are not allowed to learn English till they have been well grounded in their mother-tongue; (2) the abolition of the system of remunerating teachers in Primary schools on the results of public examinations of their pupils, and the substitution for it of a system of remuneration according to results ascertained by inspection *in situ;* (3) the extension of the education of girls and of Zanana ladies; and (4) a considerable increase in the inspecting staff. During the year under review, there was an encouraging increase of nearly 3 *per cent.* in the total number of educational institutions of all classes, and of 5·2 *per cent.* in the total number of pupils. Muhammadans have, in the past, been notoriously backward in the matter of education. During the year, however, there was a very satisfactory increase in the number of Muhammadan pupils; and it is to be hoped that this fact points to a real and lasting awakening on the part of this community to the advantages of education. The carrying out of the recommendations of the Simla Educational Conference of 1901 entailed a large increase in expenditure, in aid of which a special grant of ten lakhs was made by the Imperial Government.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

78. Although the judicial returns show that the Criminal Courts made good use of section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and of section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act, in dealing with youthful offenders, there was an increase of 30 *per cent.* in the number of admissions to the Reformatory Schools at Alipur and Hazaribagh. Greater success attended the efforts made to follow up the histories of boys discharged; but there is still room for much further improvement. The figures with regard to the occupations followed by boys after release from the schools are still very disappointing; only a small proportion of those released being found to be engaged in the trades taught them at the schools.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

79. The literature published in Bengal, and the attitude of the Native Press, during the year under review, do not call for any special comment.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

80. Good progress was made with the work of restoring and conserving the ruins at Gaur and Panduah. The restoration of the Rohtas Palace and outlying monuments was carried out; special repairs at Bhubaneswar were executed; and conservation work was in progress at the Black Pagoda at Kanarak.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

81. The Veterinary Department showed considerable activity during the year; the number of animals treated being nearly three times larger than in the previous year.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS.

82. The coronation of their Imperial Majesties was celebrated with much enthusiasm all over Bengal on the 1st January, 1903. Durbars, at which the King's proclamation was read aloud, were held at the head-quarters of each district. Prisoners were released; the poor, the inmates of jails and hospitals, and school-children, were fed; and, at night, all public buildings were illuminated. Prayers were offered up by all communities for the long life and happiness of the King-Emperor and his Consort. The occasion was also duly celebrated in the Political and Tributary States. In Calcutta, although the proclamation was read on the 1st January, the rest of the celebrations, including the feeding of the poor, a display of fireworks and the illumination of the city were, owing to the absence of His Excellency the Viceroy and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at Delhi on that date, deferred till the end of the month.

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PART II.

THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1902-1903.

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Map of Bengal.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1902-1903.

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES; SYSTEM OF SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS. TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 1—160.

Changes in the Administration.

1. Administrative changes during the year were comparatively unimportant. Reference to such as occurred will be found in the Chapters dealing with the branch of administration to which they relate.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

SIKKIM.

Area, 2,818 miles; chief products, timber, rice, wheat, barley, maize and cardamoms; population, 59,014; revenue, Rs. 138,606; present Maharaja, Thutop Namgyal, born 1860; family of Tibetan origin; residence, Gangtok; has male heir, (Sidkyong Tulku).

2. In Sikkim, though public health was good and no epidemics of cholera or small-pox occurred, the year was not a prosperous one. Severe hailstorms, which swept the country in April and May, almost entirely destroyed the maize, and did considerable damage to other crops. In consequence prices of food-grains ruled much higher than in the previous year. Cardamoms too gave a poor outturn. The apple orchards at Lachen and Lachung are doing well, and arboriculture generally received a good deal of attention during the year. Rupees 40,302 were spent on Public Works, and of this amount Rs. 22,398 were expended on buildings. The construction of the palace for the Maharaj Kumar was the principal work of the year: a new police lock-up with six cells and a building in connection with the Lachung weaving school were also constructed. The Gangtok Dispensary building was considerably improved, and separate quarters have been provided for the Hospital Assistant. The figures for the year in regard to trade with Tibet compare favourably with the two best years on record, 1898-1899 and 1899-1900, the total value amounting to Rs. 19,09,832 against Rs. 16,59,748 in the previous year. No special reason is assigned for the large increase. The school at Gangtok is said to have done good work, and the weaving schools at Lachung show satisfactory results. The attendance during the year at the new hospital and dispensary at Gangtok and Chidam was most encouraging. The State Council suffered a severe loss by the death of Lama Lari Pema, who was generally respected The year

was an eventful one for the Maharaj Kumar, as he visited Delhi in the place of His Highness the Maharaja, who was unable to go, and participated in the several ceremonies in connection with the Imperial Durbar.

BHUTAN.

Area, roughly, 20,000 square miles; estimated population, 250,000.

3. Our relations with Bhutan continued friendly throughout the year. The Deb Raja died in December 1902, and so far a successor has not been appointed.

COOCH BEHAR.

Area, 1,307 square miles; chief products, rice, jute and tobacco; population, 563,974; revenue, Rs. 22,25,867; military force, 193 men and 4 field guns; present Maharaja, Nripendra Narain Bhup; family of Tibetan or Dravidian origin; residence, Cooch Behar. Has male heir (Maharaj Kumar Raj Rajendra Narain).

4. His Highness the Maharaja was absent from the State for a considerable portion of the year; he was commanded to attend the Coronation ceremonies in England, as Aide-de-camp to His Majesty the King, and on his return he was present at the Delhi Coronation Durbar, at the invitation of His Excellency the Viceroy. During his absence the State was administered by the State Council in accordance with a memorandum of administration drawn up by His Highness. The Coronation was duly celebrated at the State capital on January 1st. The Maharaja's eldest son, Maharaj Kumar Raj Rajendra Narain, has lately joined the Imperial Cadet Corps.

5. The year was generally one of fair prosperity, though the heavy rain in some instances caused damage to the crops; the health of the population was good, and it is satisfactory to note that the policy of extending the benefits of dispensaries has been continued, and an effort made to cope with malaria by raising the level of the town of Cooch Behar itself. The average daily number of out-patients attending the several dispensaries was 212, which is considerably above the average attendance for the previous year. The total number of vaccinations performed was 15,243 against 18,414. The figures under this head are, however, said to be unreliable.

6. The income of the State (Rs. 23,56,409) exceeded the estimates, and reached a figure considerably higher than that of past years: this was due partly to increased receipts from the private estates, but mainly to the receipts from the State Railway, which were swelled by certain adjustments of accounts due to the State in past years. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 22,71,861, and the surplus of Rs. 84,548 was added to the cash balance. The Excise and Land revenue was collected practically in full, and there was a small increase in the receipts from Stamps. The expenditure under Public Works amounted to Rs. 1,18,032: of this amount Rs. 47,812 were spent on original works and Rs. 31,635 on repairs. The Civil Surgeon's bungalow has been completed, and a dispensary built at Fulbari. A new lock-up has been constructed at Dinhata, and one at Fulbari has been commenced. Over Rs. 11,000 were spent in collecting materials and burning bricks for the proposed new building for the Victoria College and Jenkins School. Under "Communications" large sums were expended during the year on bridges.

7. The administration of the State during the year appears to have been satisfactory. The Settlement Department did much work. Under Registration there was a small increase. Though certain classes of crime, noticeably lurking house-trespass and criminal trespass, increased, there was a comparative absence of heinous offences. The work of the police was on the whole satisfactory, and the chaukidari force is reported to be of increasing utility. The Bench of Honorary Magistrates at Haldibari did good work. The average Jail population (82·92) was slightly in excess of the previous year's figures. The health of the prisoners throughout the year was good. In the matter of Education the State compares favourably with the neighbouring districts in British territory, and there are in all 333 Primary and Secondary schools with an average daily attendance of 8,011. The total expenditure on Education during the year was Rs. 44,604. The results of the various examinations held were not so good as in 1901-1902. The Inspector of Schools, who attended the training institution at Kurseong, has on his return to the State

been placed in charge of a training class, in which teachers, pundits, etc., from the various State schools are being instructed on the lines followed in Bengal.

HILL TIPPERA.

Area, 4,086 square miles; chief products, rice and cotton; population, 173,325; revenue from State, Rs. 7,01,550; from zamindari in British Territory, Rs. 8,57,520; military force, 298 infantry; present Raja, Radha Kishore Deb Barman Manikya, born 1857; family, Indo-Chinese; residence, Agartala. Has male heir.

8. One of the principal events of the year was the visit of His Highness the Raja to the Imperial Durbar at Delhi. At Agartala, the capital of the State, the Coronation of Their Majesties was celebrated by the reading of the Royal Proclamation at a Durbar, and by public festivities and rejoicings. Raj Kumar Brajendra Kishore Deb Barman, a younger son of the Raja, has, with the permission of the Government of India, lately joined the Imperial Cadet Corps.

9. The general character of the year was favourable to the residents in the plains, but the failure of the cotton and oilseed crops adversely affected the material condition of the hill people, though their exportation of forest produce was larger than in the previous year. Public health was good, and no epidemics occurred during the year.

10. Though the area surveyed and settled was greater than in the previous year, there was a falling off in the rate of rent secured, the reason being that most of the lands brought under settlement require to be wholly reclaimed, and are difficult of access. The increase obtained by the resettlement of old mahals, etc., amounted to Rs. 59,340, against Rs. 21,709 of the previous year. The greater portion of the increase was obtained from *Bankar* mahals.

11. The receipts of the State from all sources amounted to Rs. 7,01,550, as against Rs. 7,06,359 in the preceding year. The decrease is chiefly under the head of tolls on cotton and oilseeds, and is due to the failure of the cotton crop. The total gross receipts of the year excluding recoveries of costs of litigation and refunds of advances on account of both the State and Chakla Roshnabad, amounted to Rs. 15,59,070, against Rs. 15,74,718. Expenditure in the State and Chakla rose to Rs. 17,46,800, the increase being mainly due to the Raja's visit to the Imperial Durbar at Delhi. The total expenditure under Public Works was Rs. 2,84,715, the larger portion of which appears to have been spent at the capital. Progress was made with the new palace now under construction. Nothing appears to have been done in the way of improvements in Chakla Roshnabad estate.

12. During the year 1,388 persons were brought to trial; of these only 336 were convicted, and the obvious inference is that either prosecutions are instituted on insufficient grounds, or that cases are improperly tried. The total number of deeds presented for registration was 3,456, against 3,034 in the previous year. Medical relief appears to have been given on a fairly adequate scale in ten dispensaries, which treated 26,984 patients. During the year a lady doctor was appointed at Agartala.

13. The Durbar has made some progress in the establishment of primary schools, which are now 66 in number. The total number of pupils in the State (2,419), and the average daily attendance, compare very favourably with the previous year's figures. There is a second grade College in the State which at the close of the year had not been affiliated to the Calcutta University. The result of the last examination was unsatisfactory, as only 5 students passed out of 26. Considerable attention was paid throughout the year to the management of the Thakurs' Boarding-house. A technical school was opened in February last.

Special attention was paid to the cultivation of the mulberry, and arrangements are being made for silk-rearing. It is as yet too early to pronounce upon the utility of these experiments.

TRIBUTARY AND POLITICAL STATES OF CHOTA NAGPUR.

Consisting of nine States—Bonai, Changbhakar, Gangpur, Jashpur, Kharsawan, Korea, Seraikela, Sirguja and Udaipur, varying in size from 6,103 square miles (Sirguja) to 149 square miles (Kharsawan). Total population, 1,001,429. None of the States have a military force of their own, but the subordinate tenures are of a feudal nature.

14. The Coronation of Their Imperial Majesties was duly celebrated at the Head-quarters of all the Native States on the 1st of January 1903, and such of the Chiefs as could attend were present at the Durbar held by the Commissioner

of the Chota Nagpur Division at Ranchi on the same date. Advantage was taken of the occasion to invest the Raja of Jashpur with the *khillat* which the Imperial Government had granted him. The Commissioner of Chota Nagpur made a prolonged and useful tour in the States during the cold weather, visiting Jashpur, Sirguja, Udaipur and Gangpur.

Administration. 15. The administration of the States of Udaipur, Bonai and Kharsawan was, on account of the minority of their Chiefs, carried on under the Commissioner's supervision by managers appointed by Government. In Jashpur, the term of the Dewan's appointment having expired, the Chief has been entrusted with the direct management of his State. In Sirguja, the State has since August 1902 been directly managed by the Chief, with the help of an assistant nominated by himself and approved by Government. Forest and mining leases were granted in several States with the approval of Government and arrangements for a system of reciprocity between the several States in the matter of pursuit and arrest of offenders absconding from one State to another are under consideration.

Serious disturbances occurred during the year in Seraikela in connection with the resettlement made by the Raja of the lands in his State. The raiyats of the Kochang Pir at the instigation of thikadars (rent farmers) objected to the rates and measurements by withholding the payment of all rents either at the new or old rates. A *Desh* Committee or patriotic association was formed to oppose the Raja; serious riots occurred, and a Sub-Inspector of Police was murdered. Mr Craven, a Deputy Collector, was deputed to Seraikela with a body of Police to restore order and realise arrear rents for which the Raja had obtained decrees against his thikadars and to effect the arrest of four proclaimed criminal offenders. Mr. Craven realised within a short time outstanding rents amounting to over a lakh of rupees from the raiyats, and apprehended most of the offenders who were tried and punished. The Police force of the State has been reorganised and a fresh settlement by Government agency as prayed for by the raiyats has since the close of the year been decided on.

Revenue and Expenditure. 16. Compared with the figures of the preceding year, the aggregate revenue of the States shows an increase of Rs. 2,70,555: the increase is in a great measure, however, more nominal than real, as in the case of two States the improved figures are the result of greater accuracy in the accounts submitted, while in another the figures of the year are regarded with suspicion by the Commissioner. In Gangpur, an increase of Rs. 63,138 is chiefly the result of larger receipts under Excise. In Seraikela, an increase of Rs. 56,626 is accounted for by the realisation of arrears of rent due from raiyats in the Kochang Pir. The number of Excise shops, and the revenue from the same, showed a further rise during the year, especially in Gangpur, where there was keen competition on the part of the *abkars*, and where restrictions were imposed during the year on the brewing of home-made rice-beer. The amount reported to have been spent on Public Works (Rs. 31,942) is very much in excess of the figures for the previous year.

Police and Criminal Justice. 17. The total number of police, officers and men, employed was 490, and the cost of their up-keep was Rs. 37,729, a figure slightly in excess of that of the previous year: there was a large increase in the cost of the force in Gangpur, due to a very necessary revision of the pay of sub-inspectors and head-constables.

The total number of cases brought to trial during the year, including those pending at the close of 1901-1902 was 3,261 with 5,580 persons, against 2,001 with 4,085 persons in the previous year. There was a marked increase in the States under Government management, as well as in those where there is a Dewan appointed by Government, the result doubtless of a more systematic administration of justice, and consequent greater confidence in the Courts on the part of the people. Including five cases pending from the previous year, there were 43 sessions trials: the results of the trials appear to have been satisfactory. The amount of criminal fines imposed was Rs. 10,296, and of this sum Rs. 8,647 were realised. Thirty-seven criminal appeals preferred before the Commissioner were disposed of during the year, and in only four cases were the orders of the Lower Court reversed.

Jails. 18. The number of prisoners confined in the several jails during the year was 1,324 as compared with 1,094 the previous year's figure, which did not

however include prisoners from Seraikela and Kharsawan, who till recently were confined in the Chaibassa jail. The jail mortality was low, but there was a comparatively large number of escapes, in most cases due to lax surveillance.

Civil Justice.

19. The total number of civil cases for disposal during the year was 1,456, against 1,173 in 1901-1902. Of these, 1,247 were disposed of. The Civil case work was heaviest in Seraikela, Gangpur, Kharsawan and Bonai. Of the 123 civil and revenue appeals for disposal, only 20 were pending at the close of the year. In 31 cases the orders of the lower Courts were reversed.

Education.

20. The number of schools in the several States fell from 97 in 1901-1902 to 84 in the year under report, but pupils increased from 2,029 to 2,254. The Raja of Gangpur claims to have done much during the year to promote education in his State. There was a very large increase (650) in the number of aboriginals attending the various schools. The total expenditure on Education in the States, during the year, was Rs. 8,317. The minor Chief of Udaipur continued his studies at the Raipur Raj Kumar College, and is well reported on. The young Chief of Kharsawan is also at the same College. The minor Chief of Bonai has been sent to the Raj Kumar College at Bamra.

Public health and material condition of the people.

21. The crops of the year were generally good, and the prices of food-grains in the several States were either lower or much the same as in the previous year. There were no epidemics of disease, and the material condition of the people throughout the year was on the whole good. The number of vaccinations performed was higher by 11,573 than in the previous year, due to marked increase in the operations in Sirguja and Bonai. The appointment of a supervisor of vaccination in the States has been productive of good results, and arrangements have been made under which men will be sent from the several States to learn vaccination from the Civil Surgeon of Ranchi. The number of out-door patients treated at the dispensaries rose from 15,267 to 17,901. In-door medical relief was only given at Dharamjaigarh and Jashpurnagar, where 48 and 15 patients, respectively, were treated during the year. The Empress Victoria Hospital at Gangpur has been completed, and at Udaipur a dispensary building is under construction.

TRIBUTARY MAHALS OF ORISSA.

Consist of the seventeen States of Athgar, Athmallik, Baramba, Boad, Daspalla, Dhenkanal, Hindol, Keonjhar, Khandpara, Moharbhanj, Narsingpur, Nayagarh, Nilgiri, Pal Lahera, Ranpur, Talcher and Tigiria. Their area varies from 4 243 square miles (Moharbhanj) to 46 square miles (Tigiria). Total population, 1,947,802. All pay tribute. Most of them maintain small militias and a few have guns.

Administration.

22. There are no changes of importance to record under this head. The Superintendent held a durbar at Cuttack in connection with the celebration of the Coronation of Their Imperial Majesties, which was attended by nearly all the Chiefs. The Superintendent made useful tours during which he gave attention to a number of important questions. Several boundary disputes, one of which was between Boad State and Chinna Khemdi in Ganjam, were settled and disputes between the Chief of Nilgiri and his people regarding forest rules, between the Chief of Moharbhanj and the proprietor of an important estate, and between the Chief of Boad and his Khond subjects who were in a state of unrest and excitement, were satisfactorily disposed of.

Revenue and Expenditure.

23. Collections in the five States under Government management during the year were satisfactory except in Narsingpur. The latter State suffered to some extent from drought, and the riparian lands are always subject to floods. There have been successive failures of crops in the State, and the assessment of rents at the last settlement is reported to have been abnormally high. Steps are being taken for the revision of the assessment, where necessary. There was an increase from 6,015 to 6,566 in the number of deeds registered in the various States, and the value of stamps sold rose from Rs. 55,534 to Rs. 57,470. Considerably more than one-half of this amount was contributed by Moharbhanj alone. There was a small increase in the revenue from Excise. During the year settlement operations were in progress in Baramba, Moharbhanj and Nayagarh. Arrangements have been made for a systematic examination by professional agency of the forests in the five States under Government management or control, and an officer of the Forest Department has been on deputation for this purpose since October 1902.

Rupees 2,31,145 were spent on Public Works in the several States during the year, against Rs. 1,65,609 in 1901-1902. Of the total amount spent, Rs. 73,358

were expended in Moharbhanj, and Rs. 46,338 in Dhenkanal. Forty-five miles of new roads were made, chiefly in Athgarh, Daspalla, Keonjhar and Narsingpur, bringing the total mileage of roads in the States to 1,076 miles. Keonjhar which used to be very backward in the matter of communications made thirty miles of new roads during the year 1901-1902, and twenty miles during the year under report. Rupees 30,076 were spent on irrigation, contributed chiefly by Athgarh (Rs. 9,146), Moharbhanj (Rs. 6,211) and Dhenkanal (Rs. 5,102). The progress made in public works in the four States under Government management, viz., Baramba, Dhenkanal, Narsingpur and Pal Lahera was not satisfactory owing to the absence of the permanent Engineer who has since been required to resign.

Police and Criminal Justice.

24. The police maintained—165 officers and 855 men—and their cost Rs. 1,03,446—were much the same as in the preceding year. There was a further decrease in the number of criminal cases instituted under the Penal Code, and an increase in the number of cases under special and local laws. Of the total number of persons brought to trial 57·3 were convicted. The results of Sessions cases were on the whole satisfactory.

Jails.

25. The number of admissions to the several jails was 2,463, or practically the same as in the previous year. A satisfactory feature of the jail administration is that there were only 12 deaths, against 45 in the previous year. In several of the States, however, the jail buildings are in a very unsatisfactory condition.

Civil Justice.

26. Civil, Revenue, and miscellaneous cases fell from 31,665 to 28,003. The decrease was most marked in Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Narsingpur, Nayagarh and Ranpur. The reasons assigned for this decrease are a reduction in the number of certificate cases, the partial failure of crops, and the completion of settlement operations, which has facilitated in a large number of cases the adjustment of land disputes.

Education.

27. The number of schools in the several States rose from 1,293 to 1,319, and of pupils from 17,990 to 19,137. The increase is confined to public institutions; private institutions which show a marked decline, are apparently giving place to State-aided schools. The total amount spent on Education was Rs. 1,19,079, of which Government contributed Rs. 20,862, the balance being paid by the States and the people. The number of aboriginals under instruction shows a considerable rise from 1,595 to 1,817. The results of the examinations held were on the whole disappointing. Female education was, if anything, retrogressive, the great difficulty being the paucity of suitable teachers.

Public health and condition of the people.

28. The rainfall of the year, though in most of the States it was in excess of the triennial average, was unevenly distributed, and in Nayagarh a consequent failure of crops following on a previous bad year caused some distress. Scarcity, though to a less degree, was also experienced in Daspalla and Boad. In the majority of the States, however, prices ruled easier than in the previous year. There was a good mango crop, and the Superintendent reports the material condition of the people to have been on the whole satisfactory. Like its predecessor, the year was unhealthy, cholera and small-pox in an epidemic or sporadic form being present in all the States, and causing great havoc in Nayagarh and Ranpur in particular. Cattle disease is reported to have caused considerable loss in Athmallik, Khandpara and Dhenkanal. The number of vaccinations performed fell off considerably, but the success attending the scheme for training natives of the States in vaccination at the Cuttack Medical School, to be subsequently employed on vaccination work in the States to which they belong, augurs well for the future. The number of dispensaries remained the same as in the previous year. A female ward was added to the building in Talcher, and a lady doctor placed in charge of it. The hospital for women at Dhenkanal is reported to be doing useful work and growing in popularity. There was an increase in the number of patients attending the several dispensaries, accompanied however by a small decrease in the expenditure on these institutions.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1902-1903.]

Prices of food and labour.

29. In consequence of the good crops of the year, prices of staple food-grains fell in most districts. In a few districts, Burdwan, Hooghly,

24-Parganas and Balasore, the price of common rice was, however, higher than in 1901-1902, while it remained the same in the district of Dacca. In Jessore, Rajshahi, Shahabad, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas there was a rise in the price of wheat as compared with that in the previous year, but in Ranchi the price remained the same. In Shahabad the prices of gram and maize were lower than usual. In Saran the prices of wheat and maize were lower during the latter half than in the first half of the year. In Champaran the price of wheat was very nearly the same as in 1901-1902, during April and May, but from June to March it was lower than the corresponding period of the previous year; gram and maize were generally cheaper throughout the year than in 1901-1902.

Material condition of the people.

30. In Burdwan the agricultural classes were slightly worse off during the year on account of the winter rice crop having suffered in certain tracts from a deficient rainfall. Though somewhat serious floods occurred in the Rampur Hat subdivision in September, Birbhum continued to be prosperous, and Hooghly was fairly well off. Bankura has been suffering from bad harvests successively for the last three years, and the Collector reports that the people generally had great difficulty in making both ends meet. Midnapore also had a bad year. In Midnapore the rice-crop is the sole source of living of the majority of the people, and a succession of bad harvests has compelled a large portion of the agricultural population to fall into debt.

31. There was no appreciable change in the material condition of the people in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Murshidabad and Khulna. In Nadia and Jessore the outturn of principal crops was below the average and the condition of the people is said to be less prosperous than it was a year ago. It is further alleged that the fertility of the soil in both these districts is gradually decreasing, owing to the rise of the general level of the country, which tends to deprive it of the enriching silt brought down by the great rivers when in flood.

32. In the Rajshahi Division the material condition of the people was good. Agriculture was prosperous. The labourers are said to be few and get good wages. The class that thrives the least is the artisan and those who are dependent on fixed incomes. The indebtedness of the Hill races in Darjeeling is chiefly due to the high rate of interest on money borrowed for marriage expenses.

33. In the Dacca Division the year was, on the whole, one of normal agricultural prosperity. The outturn of winter rice, the staple food crop, was above normal, and though there was a short crop of jute, this was to a considerable extent compensated for by high prices. A tornado in April caused considerable loss of life and destruction of property in the Narainganj subdivision of the Dacca district, and to a less extent in the Sadar subdivision. Another storm a little later in the same month was responsible for several deaths in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district.

34. In Tippera and Noakhali the cultivating classes on the whole live comfortably on the produce of the soil, which generally yields a good harvest. The material condition of the people in Chittagong was satisfactory. In the Cox's Bazar subdivision the people have not yet entirely recovered from the effects of the cyclone of 1897.

35. In the Patna Division the outturn of the various crops was generally favourable, and consequently the prices of food-grains were lower than those of the previous year. In Gaya this, coupled with the healthiness of the district for the most part of the year, contributed towards the well-being of the people and enabled them to enjoy a moderate prosperity. But in Patna, Shahabad, Saran and the Sadar and Somastipur subdivisions of Darbhanga there was general suffering on account of the reappearance of plague. In Champaran fever was prevalent throughout the district and carried away over 42,000 persons. Plague broke out in the town of Muzaffarpur in October and lasted throughout the remainder of the year. Floods caused considerable loss of life, both of persons and cattle, and damage to house property in the Sitamarhi subdivision of the Muzaffarpur district, and to a less extent in the Madhubani subdivision of the Darbhanga district.

36. In the Bhagalpur Division the general condition of the people was prosperous. In Monghyr alone the condition of the people was affected by the

prevalence of plague. In Bhagalpur, there were cases of cholera and small-pox in a few localities.

37. In the Orissa Division the general condition of the people was, on the whole, good, except in certain small areas in the Balasore and Puri districts.

38. In the Chota Nagpur Division the people of Hazaribagh were badly off owing to two successive years of inferior harvests, but the construction of the Gaya-Katras Railway, as well as the coal and mica mines, provided ample work for those in needy circumstances. In Ranchi, Manbhum, and Singhbhum the condition of the people was generally good. But in Palamau the people suffered from successive years of bad harvests. To remedy this, loans were granted to the extent of Rs. 20,353 for land improvement, and Rs. 38,072 were advanced to the tenants of the khas mahals for the purchase of bullocks.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1902-1903.]

Remittance of land revenue and rent by means of money-orders.

39. An account of the year's demand, collections and balances of land revenue will be found under Chapter V—"Revenue and Finance." The paragraphs below give details as to the mode of realisation of the revenue, and information as to matters connected with the administration of land revenue, not treated of elsewhere in the Report.

40. The number of revenue money-orders increased from 212,821 in the year 1901-1902 to 239,954 in the year under report, the amount of land revenue and cesses remitted increasing simultaneously from Rs. 20,03,034 to Rs. 23,35,051. Numerous mistakes having occurred owing to the fact that, under the rules at present in force, three classes of demand, viz., land revenue, zamindari dák cess, and road and public works cesses, are entered in a single money-order form, Government has recently approved a proposal submitted by the Board of Revenue that separate forms of money-order should be introduced for (1) land revenue and zamindari dák cess, and (2) road and public works cesses. It is reported that the new forms will be introduced with effect from April 1904.

There was a small increase (5,575) in the number of rent money-orders. The increase was shared by almost all the districts in which this system of remittances is in force except Purnea and Malda. In these two districts there was a considerable decrease both in the number of orders issued and in the amount covered by them. In the case of the former district, the decline is attributed to the abnormal increase in the number of money-orders which had occurred during the preceding year, owing to the strained relations which prevailed in that year between the Darbhanga Raj and its tenants; while in Malda this form of remittance was seldom used, owing to the good feeling which existed during the year between the landlords of the district and their tenants.

Coercive processes.

41. As in previous years, the sale law was leniently worked, the number of estates actually sold being only 9·8 *per cent.* of the number which were liable to sale for non-payment of land revenue. There was a small increase (556) in the number of defaults, as compared with the figures of the previous year, but the number of sales decreased by 49. As in previous years, sales for the arrears of one kist were generally concluded before the next kist.

There was a large decrease (79,463) in the number of certificate cases instituted, as compared with the figures of the previous year. The decline was most marked under the head of "Cesses," and was the result of the orders according to which the issue of certificates for petty arrears is prohibited, unless such arrears are likely to be barred by limitation. Under the head "Court of Wards," the release of the Burdwan Raj Estate from the management of the Court of Wards accounts for the decrease in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura and Hooghly. Under the head "All other certificates" there was a decrease of 11,723 cases in the districts of Noakhali and Chittagong, due, in the case of the former district, to the withholding of certificates for petty arrears on account of dák cess, and, in the latter, to the completion of the proceedings for the recovery of the cost of survey and settlement operations.

Drainage.

42. The collections on account of the Rajapur and Howrah drainage schemes, amounting to Rs. 2,01,896 and Rs. 65,435, respectively, were satisfactory. The recent amendment of the Bengal Drainage Act has reduced the rate of interest payable on money advanced by Government from 5 to 4 *per cent.*, and has empowered the zamindars to obtain from the Revenue Court orders for the issue of summary processes against their tenants. The Collector has already received 9,371 requisitions for the issue of such processes.

Land Registration.

43. The total number of interests (in land) registered in the Province since the Act came into force was 1,580,645 at the close of 1901-1902. The total number of applications for mutation granted during the year was 77,703, which is 4·9 on the actual number of interests in existence. The percentage was highest in the Dacca Division (9·06) and lowest in the Chittagong Division (2·3). The number of old interests renewed, and the number of new interests entered were 89,902 and 107,942 respectively. Thus the total number of interests at the close of the year was 1,598,685. The expenditure on account of land registration charges during the year amounted to Rs. 34,057 as against Rs. 29,893 in the preceding year. The fees realised during the year amounted to Rs. 6,490 as compared with Rs. 3,324 in 1901-1902. The Registers prescribed under the Act are reported to be in good condition.

Separate Accounts: Registration of Tenures under Act XI of 1859.

44. Including 4,394 accounts opened during the year, there was at the close of 1902-1903, a total number of 101,563 separate accounts, paying a total land revenue demand of Rs. 96,05,823. There were 34 registrations of tenures for their protection against annulment in case of the sale of the estate under Act XI of 1859 for arrears of revenue, and the total number of tenures so protected at the close of the year was 5,402. These tenures comprise a total area of 5,227,708 acres with a total rental of Rs. 29,97,053.

Partitions.

45. The number of partitions effected during the year was 323, as compared with 361 in the preceding year: of these, 182 were in the Patna Division, 60 in the Dacca Division, 30 in the Bhagalpur Division and 51 in the other Divisions. At the close of 1899-1900 there were 1,131 pending cases in the Patna, Bhagalpur and Dacca Divisions: this number has now been reduced to 992. The average cost per acre of partitions completed during the year varied from Rs. 3-0-3 in Burdwan to Re. 0-1-8 in Purnea. The new Estates Partition Act is generally reported to have worked smoothly.

Land acquisition.

46. Land acquisition proceedings, covering an area of 18,042 acres of land, acquired on behalf of the Government, Municipalities, Railways, District Boards, &c., were confirmed by the Board during the year, at a total cost of Rs. 28,91,316, as compared with an area of 13,985 acres, costing Rs. 31,23,739 taken up during the preceding year. Of the total expenditure incurred, over Rs. 25 lakhs were on behalf of railways. There were a large number of long pending cases in the Burdwan and Bhagalpur Divisions, with regard to which the Board have been asked to submit a special report.

Advances under Act XIX of 1883 and Act XII of 1884.

47. The loans granted under the Land Improvement Loans Act, XIX of 1883, during the year amounted to Rs. 1,24,869, against Rs. 71,649 in the preceding year. The largest advances were made in the districts of Gaya (Rs. 29,545), the Santhal Parganas (Rs. 23,300) and Palamau (Rs. 20,353). The amount for recovery during the year was Rs. 1,32,449. The total collections amounted to Rs. 87,942 and Rs. 5,302 were remitted, the percentage of collections on the realisable demand being 66·3, against 63·9 in the previous year.

Rupees 1,26,546 were advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, XII of 1884. The total amount for realisation during the year was Rs. 2,66,092, and the total collections amounted to Rs. 1,98,420 and Rs. 3,219 were remitted. The percentage of collections on the realisable demand was 74·5, against 51·7 in the previous year.

Agricultural Banks.

48. Thirty-seven Agricultural Banks were started during the year, viz., 15 in Government estates, 11 in Wards' estates and 11 in private estates. The total number of banks open at the close of the year was 48, viz., 20 in Government estates, 14 in Wards' estates and 14 in private estates. The amounts advanced to these banks in the three classes of estates were Rs. 5,357, Rs. 3,553 and Rs. 5,670, respectively. The scheme is still in the experimental stage, and, though hopeful signs are not wanting, it is too early to pronounce any confident opinion as to its success.

Collectors' business statements.

49. The cases in the Collectors' business statements instituted and disposed of were 1,049,607 and 1,102,742, against 1,162,255 and 1,156,309 respectively in the previous year. The disposals exceeded the number of institutions, and thus lightened the file of pending cases. The decrease was chiefly under the heads of cess revaluation, certificates, applications under Act XI of 1859, sales fo arrears of land revenue, and applications under various sections of the Benga Tenancy Act. Land Registration cases and cases connected with Governmen

estates, claims to money in deposit, stamp cases, applications for agriculturists' and land improvement loans, and for waste lands, suits under the rent laws and execution cases show, on the other hand, a tendency to increase. Process and correspondence work was also much greater.

Surveys and Settlements.

[The information given in this Chapter for the larger Survey and Settlement operations, under the control of the Superintendent of Provincial Surveys and the Director of Land Records, is for the year ending 30th September 1902, and taken from the Survey and Settlement Reports for the year 1st October 1901—30th September 1902. The information given for minor operations, not under the control of the Director of Land Records, is for the year ending 31st March 1903, and taken from the Board's Land Revenue Administration Report for 1902-1903.]

MAJOR OPERATIONS.

Work of the year.

50. Excluding minor operations, survey work, under the Superintendent of Provincial Surveys, was carried on, during the year, in ten districts, viz., Darjeeling, Patna, Monghyr, Purnea, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Backergunge, the Sonthal Parganas, Singhbhum and Ranchi.

Settlement operations under the Director of Land Records were conducted in the following twelve districts:—the Sonthal Parganas, Darjeeling, Noakhali, Patna, Backergunge, Gaya, Darbhanga, Monghyr, Purnea, Ranchi, Singhbhum and Shahabad.

51. The Survey programme was much larger than in the previous year. It was, with few exceptions, fully carried out notwithstanding considerable difficulties. The area covered by the traverse survey parties was 4,171 square miles, while 43·52 square miles were topographically surveyed. Cadastral survey operations extended over 3,357 square miles, while initial records were written up for 3,303 square miles. The causes which led to the inception of most of the more important settlements were detailed in the report for 1901-1902. In Ranchi, settlement has been necessitated by the Munda disturbances of 1899. In Purnea the settlement of pargana Surjapur has been undertaken in order to avert serious disputes between the tenants and their landlords. A record-of-rights has now been completed in settlements under the control of the Director of Land Records, for 29,610 square miles, or about one-fifth of the British territory of the Province. The programme of the Settlement Department could not be completed in the zamindari estates in the Sonthal Parganas, in the Munda country in Ranchi, in the Porahat Estate in Singhbhum, and in the Hatwa Raj villages in Shahabad: there were also small deficiencies in Noakhali and Backergunge, and in the Maqsudpur and Deo estates in Gaya. In all these cases satisfactory reasons were given for failure to work up to the programme.

Cost rate of surveys and settlements in Bengal.

52. The Government of India having on several occasions drawn the attention of this Government to the high rate of the cost of Survey and Settlement operations in Bengal, as compared with those of the Central Provinces and the United Provinces, a full and careful enquiry was made into the matter. It was found that, in Bengal, there are conditions, such as the greater density of the population having rights in land, the intricacies of tenures, the small size of fields, the absence of previous surveys and records of rights and of village establishments, and the great cost of labour, which make a fair comparison of the cost rates of Bengal surveys with those of other Provinces, almost impossible. These conclusions have been accepted by the Government of India.

It was, however, decided that, by the reduction of the cost of supervision, by increasing the area dealt with by a traverse party from 1,200 to 1,600 square miles, and the area dealt with by a cadastral camp from 600 to 800 square miles, and by the introduction of other small reforms, the cost of surveys and records of rights in Bengal could be reduced to a maximum limit of Rs. 420 per square mile.

Sonthal encroachments in Paharia villages.

53. During the year, the question of encroachments by Sonthals, into the unsettled portions of the Sonthal Parganas nominally occupied by Paharias, was submitted for the orders of Government. It was decided that Paharia lands are to be reserved for the Paharias with the greatest strictness, that all cases of encroachment on such lands should be fully investigated, and

that the Sonthali intruders should be evicted in every case in which they failed to prove 12 years' possession.

MINOR OPERATIONS.

54. Minor surveys by non-professional agency were conducted in connection with petty settlements throughout the Lower Provinces, excepting the Division of Orissa. The most important were in the Sundarbans, Patna, Jalpaiguri, Noakhali, Dacca, Faridpur, Hooghly and Mymensingh.

Minor settlements under the Bengal Tenancy Act were conducted under the supervision of Commissioners of Divisions, over an area of 44,617 acres contained in 126 villages in Government estates. The greater portion of the area under settlement lay in the 24-Parganas and Murshidabad, the work being in various states of progress.

Land Records.

[Settlement Report for 1902-1903.]

Working of the Land Records Maintenance Act, III (B.C.) of 1898

55. The returns showing the working of the mutation offices at Bettiah, Hajipur and Mahnar, which have been furnished by the Inspector-General of Registration, go to emphasise the conclusion that the Act, as worked at present, is a failure. The total number of mutations recorded during the year under report was 2,785 (2,057 sales and 728 successions) against 3,111 of the preceding year, and the total amount realised from fees was Rs. 290-2, as compared with Rs. 355-8 of the year 1901-1902. Nine hundred and sixteen mutations were recorded, on application, as against 1,094 of the previous year. The receipts from fees, etc., amounted to Rs. 1,086-4 and the expenditure to Rs. 3,291, as compared with Rs. 1,326-7 and Rs. 3,305, respectively, of the year 1901-1902.

The subject of the maintenance of the survey and settlement records was further discussed last year, and schemes for maintaining the records in North Bihar, Chittagong and Orissa have been submitted for the consideration of the Government of India.

Maintenance of Records in Government and Wards' Estates.

56. During the year the Board of Revenue issued instructions with the object of securing better results in the record of mutations in Government and Wards' estates. After taking transfers of all descriptions into consideration, and allowing for divergences due to varying local conditions, it has been thought probable that the number of mutations which occur annually in an estate is not less than 8 per cent. of the number of tenants; and where this standard has not been reached, explanations have been called for. The result has been a noticeable improvement in the work in many districts. In the important Government estates of the Western Duars, Darjeeling Terai, Backergunge and Noakhali, and in the extensive estates of the Tikari, Dakhin Shahbazpur and Narhan Wards the above standard was reached, and in some cases exceeded. In a number of other Government and Wards' estates, such as those of Cuttack, Puri, Palamau and Gaya, considerable advance in the percentage of mutations is observable, although the minimum alluded to above was not attained.

With regard to the correction of rent-rolls in Government and Wards' estates, a suggestion of the Director of Land Records that rent-rolls should be inspected annually in not less than half the villages of an estate has been adopted by the Board of Revenue. This standard was reached (and in some cases considerably exceeded) in the Government estates of Angul, Western Duars, Darjeeling Terai, Bogra, Faridpur and Backergunge, and in the Wards' estates of Dakhin Shahbazpur, Sheohar and Narhan. In the important Government estates of Khurda, Palamau and Chittagong the prescribed standard was very nearly attained; while great advance in this direction is observable in the large Wards' estates of Maldwar and Churamon.

Utilisation of Land Records.

57. Instructions for the guidance of the district staff in the matter of the utilisation of the survey maps and records in the various branches of revenue, criminal and other work, were issued by the Board during the year, and District Officers were directed to include in their Annual Land Revenue Administration Report a separate paragraph regarding the extent to which settlement maps and records are utilised as an aid to administration.

The reports submitted to the Director of Land Records from Tippera, Chittagong, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Champaran, Darbhanga, Monghyr, Cuttack, Puri and Angul show that the settlement maps and records are now more generally resorted to in the decision of land disputes, in certificate, partition, land acquisition, cess revaluation and land registration cases, and in the management of Government and Wards' estates generally. In all the districts named above the description of the lands by survey numbers is always insisted upon in the registration offices.

The reports from Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Backergunge, Dinajpur, Gaya, Singhbhum, Sonthal Parganas and Balasore are less promising; but it is hoped that the issue of the thana index maps and lists and the drawing of the special attention of District Officers to the subject, as well as the training of Junior Civilians, may result in fuller utilisation of survey-settlement records.

Waste Lands.

[Report of the Board of Revenue on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1902-1903.]

58. During the year under report 70,840 acres were leased in the Sundarbans to large capitalists and 20,215 to small capitalists, no ordinary settlement being made. The eventual maximum revenue of these grants to large and small capitalists will be Rs. 41,108 and Rs. 41,269, respectively. The area leased up to date to these capitalists is 367,193 and 44,343 acres, respectively, with an ultimate revenue of Rs. 2,23,049 and Rs. 1,01,314, and the area under ordinary settlements, 51,033 acres with an ultimate revenue of Rs. 33,330. There are also 127 leases under the Rules of 1853, for a term of 99 years, with an area of 474,080 acres, and an eventual maximum revenue of Rs. 1,37,231. The present revenue is Rs. 1,21,511, against Rs. 1,18,768 in 1901-1902. The total area of land under all kinds of leases, including ordinary settlements, in the Sundarbans at the close of the year was, therefore, 936,649 acres, with an eventual total revenue demand of Rs. 4,94,924. The foregoing figures representing area and revenue up to the end of the year under report do not, however, result from the corresponding figures shewn in the previous year's report, together with those for the year just closed, and the differences are reported to be due to the exclusion of the figures for Saugor Island (which were hitherto included in those for the Sundarbans, but are now shewn separately), relinquishment of settlements, addition of leases issued in 1901-1902, but brought into account in 1902-1903, cancellation of leases and settlements at progressive rates.

One lease, with an area of 3,208 acres, and an eventual revenue of Rs. 1,820, was issued during the year in Saugor Island, raising the number of leases up to date for that island to 13, with an area of 42,542 acres and an ultimate revenue of Rs. 24,131.

The total area surveyed during the year was 110,334 acres, against 55,056 in the preceding year. This, together with 109,031 acres surveyed in the previous years, but left unsettled, makes a total of 219,365 acres under settlement during the year. Out of this 115,475 acres were settled during the year, leaving a balance of 103,890 acres to be settled at the close of the year. Altogether 205 settlements covering an area of 115,475 acres, with an eventual maximum revenue of Rs. 1,11,411, were effected during the year, resulting in an accession of revenue to Government in the sum of Rs. 81,193. Twenty-nine leases with an area of 60,641 acres were sold during the year, against one lease sold in the previous year with an area of 1,583 acres. The sale fetched Rs. 1,08,596, against Rs. 1,583 in 1901-1902 and Rs. 1,03,009 in 1900-1901. The average price per acre was Re. 1-12-8, against the upset price of one rupee.

In Jalpaiguri the area leased for ordinary cultivation was 15,295 acres and for tea 29, of which the eventual maximum revenue will be Rs. 6,297 and Rs. 22, respectively. The area leased up to date for ordinary cultivation and for tea, respectively, is 222,660 and 257,334 acres, with an ultimate revenue of Rs. 1,42,782 and Rs. 1,91,666. There were 5,760 applications for 254,559 acres of waste land for ordinary cultivation, including 1,092 (revised figures)

applications pending from previous year. Of these, 307 relate to the estate of the late Colonel Hedait Ali and cover about 51,000 acres of land (though the area available is only about 6,163 acres) within the tract resumed in pargana Lakhipur. They were pending, as the question of the final resumption of these lands had not been settled. An amicable settlement has since been come to with the heirs of the late Colonel regarding the resumption of the lands, and the applications are now being disposed of by the Deputy Commissioner. Out of the total number of cases for disposal, 2,106, covering an area of 109,015 acres, were disposed of during the year, and the remaining 3,654 cases, covering an area of 145,544 acres, were pending at the close of the year.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1902-1903].

Number and management of estates.

59. The total number of estates under direct management during the year was 3,144, of which 263 belonged to private individuals, the remainder being the property of Government. Thirty Government estates with an area of 447 acres were sold during the year. Changes occurring in the managing agency and mode of management were unimportant. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 6·9, against 6·7 in the preceding year. The irregularities brought to light at he inspections of accounts in Government estates were comparatively few and unimportant.

Demand and collections.

60. The current demand of the private estates was Rs. 5,87,117 and of those belonging to Government Rs. 37,45,436. The total collections in all estates were more than 99 per cent. of the current demand. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 6,58,727, against Rs. 7,09,387 at the end of the previous year; while, if the doubtful and irrecoverable arrears were excluded, the true recoverable balance would be reduced to Rs. 5,66,114, or 13·06 per cent., on the current demand.

Expenditure on improvements, etc.

61. The expenditure on miscellaneous and sanitary improvements in Government estates during the year amounted to Rs. 2,30,041. Of this amount, Rs. 44,232 were spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 86,657 on drainage and irrigation works and embankments, Rs. 13,155 on roads and bridges and the balance on miscellaneous works. Out of the total amount (Rs. 2,42,001) allotted for works of improvement, Rs. 11,960 only remained unexpended at the close of the year. The total expenditure on Education was Rs. 82,300, against Rs. 72,021 in the preceding year.

Condition of raiyats.

62. The condition of the raiyats on Government estates during the year was generally good. In Bankura, the tenants suffered from floods in the river Darkeswar and consequent damage to their crops. The partial failure of crops, following a similar failure in previous years, and an outbreak of cholera and small-pox, caused some suffering in Midnapore. In Tippera, a bad jute season and an unsatisfactory outturn of the *chilli* and *til* crops resulted in a general lack of ready money among the cultivators, and collections suffered seriously in consequence. The tenants of the district of Chittagong have not yet recovered the losses sustained by them owing to the cyclone of the year 1897. In the Palamau Government estate, the transfer of the protected forests to the management of the Deputy Commissioner and the grant of certain necessary concessions and privileges are said to have materially advanced the condition of the people. A very large number of deserted holdings in that district were settled during the year, owing to the energy of the Deputy Commissioner, while only 65 desertions occurred, as against 766 in the previous year.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report of the Board of Revenue on the Wards' and Attached Estates in the Lower Provinces for 1902-1903.]

Number of estates under management.

63. The total number of estates under management during the year was 139 as against 140 in the previous year. The aggregate current demand of these estates on account of rent and cesses amounted to 96¼ lakhs of rupees as against 119¼ lakhs, the total demand of the estates under management in the previous year. The large falling off in the demand during the year under report was chiefly due to the release in October 1902, of the Burdwan Raj Estate. The estate of the late Babu Gopal Lal Seal was also released in

November 1902, and made over to an Administrator, *pendente lite*, appointed by the High Court. The most important estates now under management are the Bettiah, Hatwa and Tikari Estates in the Patna Division; 70 estates, or half the whole number, including all the encumbered estates (63 in number), are in the Chota Nagpur Division.

Payment of rent and cesses.

64. The revenue and cesses due to Government were generally paid punctually, the total payments representing 99·5 *per cent.* of the demand as against 98 *per cent.* in the previous year. The total payments on account of rents and cesses due to superior landlords represented only 79 *per cent.* of the demand; and although the percentage of such payments was higher and the outstanding balances were lower than in the preceding year, there is still much room for improvement in this direction.

Collections of rents and cesses.

65. The total collections of rent and cesses due to the estates under management were very satisfactory, being 104·6 *per cent.* of the current demand —the highest figure reached during the last twenty years. The highest percentage (114·6) was attained in the Burdwan Division, in consequence of the excellent collections which were made in the Burdwan Raj Estate, while the lowest percentage (97·2) is reported from the Presidency Division, where it was partly due to defects (which are now being remedied) in the system under which collections were made in the Gobardanga and Bawali Estates, and partly to the fact that the estate of the late Babu Gopal Lal Seal was released from the Court of Wards before an improved method of management could be introduced. The districts in which collections exceeded 105 *per cent.* are Burdwan, Khulna, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Cuttack, Puri and Hazaribagh.

The total uncollected balance due to the estates under management at the close of the year under report, though less by Rs. 4,21,670 than that remaining at the end of the previous year, amounted to Rs. 63,51,933, or about 66 *per cent.* of the current demand of the estates. It is alleged that a considerable portion of the uncollected balances in the Hatwa Estate is irrecoverable, and it is said that this circumstance is due to enhancements effected during the recent settlement proceedings; it is also stated that the question of revising the rent-roll of the estate is under the consideration of the Board. The Board have been asked to submit a special report on the subject. The raiyats of the estates in Hazaribagh have not yet fully recovered from the effects of the famine of the year 1896-97, and a partial failure of the winter rice crops, which occurred during the year under review, caused a slight increase of the balances in that district.

Reduction of debts.

66. Fifteen and three-quarters lakhs of rupees were paid in liquidation of debts as against 12½ lakhs in the preceding year. Two of the encumbered estates in the Chota Nagpur Division were restored to their proprietors clear of debt, and in twenty-six other similar estates the amounts paid to the creditors either equalled or exceeded the amounts provided for the purpose in the schemes of management of those estates.

Cost of management and expenditure on improvements.

67. The total cost of management was 9·7 *per cent.* of the current demand as against 7·6 *per cent.* in the previous year. The increase, which was shared by all the Divisions, except those of Dacca, Chittagong and Orissa, was chiefly due to causes of a temporary nature. It is satisfactory to observe that the Board have effected some reduction in the management charges of the Hatwa Estate. Rupees 3,93,555, or a little more than 4 *per cent.* of the current demand of the estates, were spent on works of improvement, schools and dispensaries.

Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1902-1903; Divisional Annual Miscellaneous Reports for 1902-1903.]

68. The relations between landlords and tenants are summarized by the Commissioners of Divisions, as follows:—

Relations between landlords and tenants.

In the Burdwan Division they were, generally, satisfactory, though there were disputes in the Kalna subdivision of the Burdwan district, and in parts of the Birbhum and Midnapore districts. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division reports that relations in the 24-Parganas continued to

be fairly satisfactory during the year. In the Diamond Harbour subdivision, however, the raiyats of the Sundarban tract are rack-rented and oppressed by some of the more powerful zamindars, and complaints were received against several of them. In Nadia relations were, as in the previous year, strained, while in Murshidabad they were on the whole satisfactory. Most of the principal zamindars in Jessore and Khulna are absentees, but it is noticeable that, while in the latter district relations were satisfactory, in the former they were not so. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division reports that, speaking generally, relations in this Division are much the same as in past years. Good feeling exists generally between the landlords and tenants in the Rajshahi and Dinajpur districts. In Rangpur, several instances of tension came to notice. The practice of taking a *salami* or *nazarana*, in case of mutation, is widely prevalent in this district, and most zamindars take advantage of this occasion to enhance rents. The matter is being enquired into by the Commissioner. In Bogra, there was the same friction as in the previous year; and in Pabna matters have not appreciably improved, though it is reported that the exaction of illegal cesses, by zamindars, from the raiyats in the Serajganj subdivision, is gradually diminishing. In the Dacca Division, the Commissioner reports that relations continued to be satisfactory on the whole, though there were several instances of friction caused by conflicting interests, specially in the districts of Mymensingh and Backergunge. In the Chittagong Division, generally, good feeling prevailed between landlord and tenant. In the Patna Division, the relations between landlords and tenants in the Gaya district were generally good. In some parts of the Patna district disputes frequently take place about *bhaoli* and *nagdi* rents, and in other parts with regard to zerat lands and irrigation channels. The ill-feeling existing between the Simri raiyats, in the Madhubani subdivision of the Darbhanga district, and the Maharaja of Darbhanga, was intensified during the year by an attempt on the part of the managing agency to compel the raiyats to execute kabuliyats for a higher rate of rent than that fixed by the Settlement Department. The attention of the Maharaja was drawn to this illegal action, on the part of his subordinates, and the kabuliyats were cancelled under his orders. In the Bhagalpur Division, the Commissioner states that the landlords and their tenants have on the whole been on good terms. The Survey-Settlement operations in North Monghyr, in thana Bukhtearpur of that district, and in parts of Bhagalpur and Purnea have caused a temporary disturbance of the relations of landlord and tenant, but it is expected that disputes will end with the conclusion of the operations. In Malda, the attitude of the Sonthal tenants, of pargana Shakarpur, towards their landlords was unfriendly, and in the Sonthal Parganas the exercise of jungle rights by the tenants was a source of unpleasantness between them and their landlords. In the Orissa Division it is reported that the relations continued to be satisfactory with some minor exceptions in Balasore. In the Chota Nagpur Division, relations are generally satisfactory, except in Ranchi. It is expected that when the settlement of the Munda country in that district is completed, the state of affairs there will improve greatly.

Working of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

69. The Bengal Tenancy Act has continued to work smoothly on the whole. Doubts and difficulties having arisen respecting the meaning and effect of sections 12, 13, 17 and 18 of the Act, as regards the payment of the prescribed landlord's fee, and the effect of the non-payment of such fee, and also respecting the period of limitation for institution of suits under section 106 of the Act, Act I (B.C.) of 1903 was passed, validating certain transfers, made under the Bengal Tenancy Act, of permanent tenures and holdings at fixed rates or rents and of shares in the same, and amending section 106 of that Act. A full Bench of the High Court having decided that, in proceedings instituted under section 103 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, Settlement Officers have jurisdiction to settle fair rents under section 105, and to decide disputes under section 106, a set of revised rules dealing with applications under that section has been framed by Government and published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. With a view to appease agrarian troubles, a Bill was introduced into Council to amend the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act [I (B.C.) of 1879] and the Chota Nagpur Commutation Act [IV (B.C.) of 1897], and was passed after the close of the year. There was only a slight improvement during the year in the payments of landlord's fees. Except the large zamindars

generally, and the zamindars in Saran, the landlords are as a body still reluctant to accept these fees. The number of cases of commutation of rent, payable in kind, rose during the year from 552 to 1,046: the increase was chiefly in the Patna Division, and in particular in the district of Darbhanga. The number of cases of appraisement, or division of crops, under sections 69-70 of the Act, was 609, of which 501 were contributed by the Patna Division.

Increase of rent-suits.

70. There was a further increase in the number of rent-suits in the Orissa Division, compared with the previous year. The Board have, as in last year's report, attributed this rapid increase to the fact that, owing to the enhancement of the land revenue at the last settlement, landlords cannot afford to allow arrears to remain so long outstanding, and that the Settlement records make it easy for zamindars to prove their claims in Court. The increase in the number of rent-suits in the Chota Nagpur Division is heavy, particularly in the Ranchi and Manbhum districts. The Board have been requested to cause an enquiry to be made and to submit a report on the subject.

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CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislating Authority.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 179—181.

Course of Legislation.

Acts passed during 1902-1903.

71. Six Acts were passed by the Bengal Council during the year 1902-1903, as below:—

Bengal Act I of 1902.

72. *Act I of 1902* (*Howrah Bridge Electric Lighting*).—The object of this Act which received the assent of the Governor-General on the 7th May, 1902, was to declare the Howrah Bridge to be included in the definition of "Calcutta" in Bengal Act IX of 1895, so as to legalise the granting of licenses under that Act for the supply of electricity for lighting the bridge.

Bengal Act II of 1902.

73. *Act II of 1902* [*Bengal Drainage* (*Amendment*)].—The main objects of this Act are:—

(*a*) to provide further facilities for the recovery by landholders from their tenants of a proportionate share of the expenses connected with the carrying out of drainage schemes;

(*b*) to authorise the recovery of contributions when one co-sharer pays the whole of the expenses for carrying out drainage works; and

(*c*) to provide a procedure for amending the list of persons who have been formally declared to be liable to pay the expenses of drainage schemes.

The Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 23rd September, 1902.

Bengal Act I of 1903.

74. *Act I of 1903* [*Bengal Tenancy* (*Validation and Amendment*)].—This Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 19th February, 1903, and is intended:—

(*a*) to validate transfers of shares in tenures and holdings at fixed rents or fixed rates, made in past years by registered documents and by sales in execution of decrees of Courts, without the payment in either case of the landlord's fees prescribed by section 12 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885; and

(*b*) to indicate clearly the period of limitation for the institution of suits.

Bengal Act II of 1903.

75. *Act II of 1903* [*Bengal Excise and Licensing* (*Amendment*)].—This Act which received the assent of the Governor-General on the 7th March, 1903, prohibits the employment of women by licensed vendors in the public rooms of their licensed premises, and prescribes the conditions which may be attached to licenses granted by the Board of Revenue under section 28 of the Bengal Excise Act, 1878. The Act also provides penalties for the use of a licensed vendor's shop by persons of notoriously bad character.

Bengal Act III of 1903.

76. *Act III of 1903* (*Motor-Car and Cycle*).—This Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 24th March, 1903: it empowers the Local Government to make, modify or cancel rules for regulating the use of motor-cars and cycles in streets, public places and any other area to which the Act applies, and also prescribes penalties for a breach of the rules.

Bengal Act VI of 1903.

77. *Act IV of 1903* [*Chittagong Port Commissioners* (*Amendment*)].—The main object of the Act is to authorise the imposition of a river due on all goods landed from or shipped into any sea-going vessel lying or being within the limits of the port of Chittagong.

The Act also provides for the grant of leave of absence to the Vice-Chairman and the grant of pensions to officers and servants of the Port Commissioners of Chittagong.

The Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 23rd April, 1903.

78. There was still pending in Council during the year 1902-1903 the Bill to amend the Salt Law in Bengal. No further action has been taken by the Council in respect of this Bill since its introduction on the 23rd April, 1898. **Salt Bill.**

Police.

[The Report on the Administration of the Police Department for the year 1902; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section VII.]

79. The total strength of the Police force, officers and men, in 1902, exclusive of 54 District and Assistant Superintendents and of the village watch, was 24,742. During the year 3 Inspectors, 12 Sub-Inspectors, 14 head-constables, 200 constables and 1 town chaukidar were added to the staff. The strength of the present superior staff is admittedly inadequate. In consequence, it was often necessary last year to place Inspectors in charge of districts; and the Inspector-General complains that officers of this class were frequently not available for the investigation of important and difficult cases. The Inspector-General agrees in his predecessor's opinion, that the present system by which a certain number of Sub-Inspectors are recruited by open competitive examination has proved a failure. Orissa no longer sends candidates for this examination, as it was found that they were always below the requisite standard, and a sufficient number of qualified candidates do not present themselves at the examination held at Patna; further the candidates recruited by open competition have often proved unsatisfactory; and the results of the system appear to have been, on the whole, unsuitable. Government has, however, deferred dealing with this question, as with many other questions of Police reform, in view of the fact that the conclusions arrived at by the Police Commission will shortly be known. The continued development of the Bhagalpur Training School is a satisfactory feature of the year's work. During the year, 383 additional police (officers and men) were entertained under section 15, Act V of 1861: in 22 cases, 1,768 persons were appointed as Special Police under section 17 of the same Act. A large majority of these were entertained for short periods to keep the peace during the Bakr-id and Muharram. A large number were employed in Purnea, where there was some danger of disturbance in a portion of the zamindari of the Maharaja of Darbhanga. The total expenditure on Police during the year was Rs. 52,57,994, or Rs. 38,693 in excess of the expenditure of 1901-1902. **Strength and cost of force.**

80. The discipline of the police force in the year under review has, on the whole, been satisfactory. Cases of police oppression show a slight decrease on the figures of the preceding year. Serious charges of torture have fallen from 18 to 8, and in one case only was a judicial conviction for torture obtained. In 19 cases, charges of extortion were proved, while in over 50 per cent. of the charges under this head, the Courts found the complaint to be groundless. It is to be regretted that it was found necessary during the year to punish departmentally as many as 20 per cent. of the officers of the force. It is true that this figure compares favourably with 42 per cent. punished in 1893, but the lower figure is still excessive whether it be taken as indicating that the standard of work falls short of what can reasonably be expected or that unduly harsh treatment of subordinates prevails in some districts. The Inspector-General has been asked to give the subject of departmental punishments his closest attention, for, though they are doubtless often necessary to enforce discipline, nothing is more exasperating to the force or a more fruitful source of discontent than numerous petty punishments. **Discipline.**

81. The improvement of the village chaukidars continues. The manner in which this force is administered varies from district to district. In some districts panchayats are appointed for much larger circles than in others; in some districts the Subdivisional Magistrates give more assistance to the District Superintendent of Police, and the District Magistrate in appointing, dismissing, punishing and rewarding chaukidars than elsewhere; and in some districts the **Chaukidari force.**

assessment of the chaukidari-tax on rules prescribed for the guidance of panchayats has been enjoined. The field of work here is almost boundless, and in the Resolution on the Police Report of the year the Lieutenant-Governor has commended it, as it has often been commended before, to the best efforts of the District and Subdivisional Officers and District Superintendents. With regard to the incidence of the chaukidari-tax, it is the duty of Magistrates to limit the number of chaukidars to strict requirements, and to take opportunities such as those afforded by vacancies for reducing and amalgamating charges. It is also even more important that the incidence of the tax should be fair; and that the poor, when not exempted altogether, should be taxed as lightly as possible. In this respect though the present system is not perfect, much attention has been paid to the subject of late years, and a scrutiny of the chaukidari assessment is one of the matters which is particularly enjoined upon officers when on tour.

Rewards to chaukidars.

82. It is satisfactory to observe that the admonitions of Government with regard to adequately rewarding chaukidars for good services have borne fruit. The total amount of rewards paid to chaukidars has increased from Rs. 55,655 in 1901 to Rs. 62,813, and the total number rewarded has risen from 17,021 to 18,863. There remain some districts in which the orders of Government with reference to rewarding of chaukidars have received insufficient attention; and these districts are also among the districts in which the general results of police work during the year are worst. In the districts of Rangpur and Pabna large balances—Rs. 7,974 and Rs. 8,201, respectively—stood to the credit of the District Chaukidari Reward Fund at the commencement of the year, which at the close of the year had increased to Rs. 10,901 and Rs. 9,351 respectively. In both these districts there can be little doubt that the authorities would have been justified in giving rewards to chaukidars more freely; and in the case of Rajshahi the total of the balances of the chaukidari fund to the credit of the districts in the Division is almost equal to that of any two other Divisions put together. The districts of Midnapore, Murshidabad and Malda are also remarkable for the small sums distributed in rewards, and it is unsatisfactory to find that, in the district of Murshidabad, out of 2,942 chaukidars, only 25 were departmentally rewarded. It can hardly be that in all the districts named the work of the chaukidars has been so consistently undeserving as the figures would seem to show, and District Officers have been once more reminded that judicious rewards afford as potent a stimulus to good work as rigorous punishments, and that these two incentives must be employed together.

Statistics of crime.

83. Turning to examine the statistics of crime in 1902, 177,335 cognizable offences were reported, or 1,311 fewer than in the preceding year. The percentage of convictions shows an increase.

An increase in the number of offences against property is attributed by the Inspector-General to better reporting, which has been the result of a large increase in refusals to investigate in petty cases. The percentage of refusal to investigate has risen in house-breaking cases from 20·5 to 35·2, and in theft cases from 14·1 to 20. Though great importance is to be attached to lightening the labours of an overburdened investigating staff by excusing them from the task of taking up cases of theft and house-breaking without theft in which no offender is named or suspected, the working of section 157 of the Code of Criminal Procedure requires close and incessant scrutiny.

Considerable variation is observable in the figures with regard to enquiries refused when examined Division by Division. The percentage of refusals varies, in house-breaking cases, from 22·1 in the Orissa Division to 41·5 in the Bhagalpur Division, in theft cases, from 6·8 in the Patna Division to 40·2 in the Orissa Division. No explanation of the variations has been suggested. Though it is undesirable to lay down any numerical standard, a much greater approach to a normal standard appears both possible and desirable.

False cases.

84. The number of cases declared to be maliciously false has fallen from 5,190 to 4,671. The figures under this head show a progressive and steady decrease during the last 20 years. The Inspector-General thinks that Magistrates are becoming more reluctant to declare a case maliciously false on account of the long and tedious proceedings which are likely to result from such a course, but it is to be trusted that the desire to avoid trouble will not prevent Magistrates from doing their obvious duty by denouncing such cases when they

really occur, and thus indirectly protecting innocent persons from the danger of a false charge. Prosecutions were instituted in 551 cases declared maliciously false (13 per cent. of the total number); and the results cannot be called satisfactory, as only 204 convictions were obtained. The number of occasions on which recourse was had to section 250, Criminal Procedure Code, by which compensation can be awarded to an accused dragged before the Court on a false or vexatious and frivolous charge, fell from 541 to 476. The attention of Magistrates has been drawn to the necessity for not overlooking the provisions of this most salutary section, and to the desirability of their not hesitating to avail themselves of the power thus given to them of checking the harassment of innocent persons.

Sessions cases.

85. The number of cases tried by Courts of Sessions was 1,422, and the percentage of convictions was very nearly the same as in 1901, being 70·1 as against 71·9. It is noticed that the results of Sessions trials were unsatisfactory in Bankura, Pabna, Bogra, Faridpur and Rangpur, where the percentage of convictions was in all cases below 40 per cent. The Inspector-General has been asked to separately analyse in some detail the very unfavourable results in the districts named above in order that it may be seen whether bad police work was responsible for the frequent failures in cases prosecuted before the Sessions Courts. It is to be noticed that four of these districts—Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, and Faridpur—are adjacent one to another. The Inspector-General of Police and the district authorities have been requested to give specially careful supervision to police investigations in cases of heinous crime in these districts.

Cases relating to coins, stamps, etc.

86. In examining the detailed heads of the crime of the year, an undesirable increase in the number of true cases relating to coins, stamps, and currency notes, is observable. A case from the Khulna district, mentioned by the Inspector-General, in which 125 counterfeit coins were produced, appears to show that coining on a considerable scale is going on in the Sundarbans. The need for careful attention on the part of Police officers to crimes of this nature is obvious, for in the present state of the silver market they must be extremely profitable, and might become a serious danger.

Riots.

87. It is gratifying to notice that riots continue to decrease. True cases of rioting and unlawful assembly were fewer than in any previous year since 1884. The diminishing figures for the Backergunge district, in which last year there was no riot attended with loss of life, are especially satisfactory. The Presidency Division has now taken the place formerly held by the Dacca Division, and holds the unenviable pre-eminence of having the largest number of rioting cases. The diminution of cases under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, in the Faridpur district may have led to an increase in the number of riots in that district. The more sparing use of this section in some districts is alleged to be the result of a High Court ruling bearing on the application of section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, in land disputes. The total number of cases under this section instituted in the Province, however, in 1902 largely exceeded the figures of previous years, being 3,190 as against 2,639 of the preceding year, chiefly owing to a large increase in the Dacca Division.

Violence against the person.

88. Crimes of violence against the person showed a small decrease. The very unsuccessful results attending the investigation of murders by poisoning are an unsatisfactory feature in this class of crime; 25 persons out of 30 who were sent up on such charges were acquitted.

Drugging.

89. The steady increase of cases of administering stupefying drugs with the intention of causing hurt is noticeable. These cases have increased since 1899, when there were 21 cases, to 34 cases in the year under review. This increase may possibly be due to better reporting, but the attention of the police force has been drawn to the fact that offences of this nature are often perpetrated by professional criminals, and, unless checked with a strong hand, they may lead to gangs of professional poisoners being formed in Bengal, as has been the case in other Provinces.

Burglaries.

90. There has been a large decrease in the total number of burglaries reported in the Province. This decrease is due, in a very large measure, to the smaller figures for the Patna Division, and is especially to be traced to the district of Gaya, where it is to be feared that bad reporting, rather than a real decrease in crime, is the explanation. A considerable increase in the Dacca Division is accounted for by the returns from the district of Mymensingh,

and the Inspector-General is making special enquiries as to the causes of the increase in this district.

Remarkable figures are reported from the district of Monghyr, which has no large city like Patna to swell its returns of burglaries. In this district no fewer than 2,133 burglaries were reported as against 1,164 in the 24-Parganas, 1,160 in Bhagalpur (an adjoining district), and 491 in Cuttack, all of which are districts of approximately the same population and area. Out of this enormous number of cases in Monghyr only 72 were prosecuted to conviction. It is evident that the strenuous efforts of the district authorities are necessary to deal with this class of crime, and the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code should be vigorously employed. There is reason for thinking these sections may have been somewhat neglected in the past, for in the districts of Mymensingh and Patna, the only two districts where burglary returns approximate to those of Monghyr, 148 and 335 bad-livelihood prosecutions were instituted as against 79 in the district of Monghyr.

Railway Police. 91. The number of cases dealt with by the Railway Police increased from 5,952 to 6,777. This increase is mainly due to the returns from the East Indian Railway under the head of minor offences against property. There can be little doubt that better reporting accounts for these results. In view of the frequent complaints of persons sending goods by railway, that consignments, especially of perishable articles, are tampered with, special attention has been paid to the investigation of cases where goods were reported to be missing. No fewer than 259 of such cases turned out on investigation to be cases of theft. The work of the Railway Police shows marks of distinct progress in the year under review.

Bad-livelihood cases. 92. The number of bad-livelihood cases instituted has fallen from 3,782 in 1901 to 3,432, but prosecutions have been more successful, and an improvement has taken place in the number of cases under this section, which have been tried locally. In the districts of Birbhum and Puri, which had respectively only 4 and 5 cases, this section appears to have been used very sparingly. It is probable that these figures indicate apathy on the part of the district police, more especially as there appears to be no lack of offences against property in either district. Last year attention was drawn to the extraordinary discrepancy between the Divisional figures showing the proportions of persons who furnish security under this section and those who are unable to do so. This discrepancy is as marked as ever. In the Patna Division 753 cases ended in conviction, and in 705 cases either no security was offered, or, if offered, was refused. In the Bhagalpur Division 340 persons were called upon to give security, and all without exception failed to furnish it. In the Presidency Division 280 cases resulted in conviction, and the security of 63 persons was accepted. It is no doubt the case that in the districts of Bihar many persons belonging to wandering tribes are dealt with under this section; but making due allowance for this fact, these figures prove the need of careful scrutiny by District Magistrates of the cases in which security is offered but refused.

Remands. 93. The number of remands granted by the Courts in the disposal of police cases shows an unsatisfactory increase. The percentage of cases disposed of at the first two hearings has fallen steadily during the last four years from 54·6 in 1899, 53·3 in 1900, 49·2 in 1901 to 48·6 in the year under review; and in 8·4 per cent. of the total disposals six or more remands were granted. In many border districts it is often impossible to trace the antecedents of the accused by the date on which the case is submitted for trial, and in such circumstances remands are unavoidable. This probably explains the low percentage of disposals in two hearings in the districts of Shahabad and Saran. But on consideration of all the figures, and after making all due allowance for local circumstances, there appears to be a growing tendency for Courts to be more and more dilatory in the disposal of police cases. In the district of Monghyr out of 781 A forms, no fewer than 102 were remanded more than six times. These figures are so much worse than those of the remaining districts of the Province that orders have been passed for special enquiries to be made as to the cause of such excessive delay in the disposal of police cases in this district.

Reconvictions. 94. The percentage of reconvictions (13·1) is the highest on record. It is evident that old offenders, owing to the thumb-impression system, have now much less chance of escaping detection. As in the previous year the district of

Darbhanga exhibits an extraordinarily small percentage of reconvictions as compared with the other districts of the Patna Division, although there appears to be no small amount of professional or semi-professional crime in the district.

Absconders.

95. An unsatisfactory feature of the working of the police is the increase in the number of absconders entered on the police registers. There is an increase for the whole Province from 2,979 to 3,184, and the results in certain districts are particularly bad. In Dacca alone 339 persons are borne on this register.

Suicides and accidental deaths.

96. Three thousand four hundred and twenty-five deaths were reported as due to suicide, Cuttack as usual heading the list with 358 cases, followed as in last year by Nadia, Jessore, Dacca, 24-Parganas and Saran. Deaths reported as accidental numbered 33,572, of which 25,185 were attributed to drowning and snake-bite. Twenty-one cases proved on enquiry to be murder or culpable homicide.

* Mortality from and destruction of wild beasts and snakes.

97. The total number of persons killed by wild animals during the year was 1,866, of whom 544 were killed by tigers. Of the latter figure, Singhbhum contributed 65, Hazaribagh 63, Monghyr 57, Khulna 55, the 24-Parganas 53, Angul 53, Palamau 43, and Gaya 42 deaths. The number of cattle killed by wild animals was 25,337, and the number of wild animals destroyed 6,156. In the Backergunge district alone, 1,574 boars are reported to have been killed. The total amount paid, in rewards, for the destruction of wild animals, was Rs. 7,966; in many districts measures were taken for clearing jungle and undergrowth in the neighbourhood of towns and villages, and in the Backergunge district 170 guns were given out, to village panchayats, for the destruction of wild boars. Eleven thousand one hundred and thirty persons are reported to have died from snake-bite during the year, the largest number of deaths (3,258) occurring in the Patna Division. No reliable figures are available as to the mortality amongst cattle from the same cause.

Police Administration in the Town of Calcutta.

[Report on the Police Administration of the Town of Calcutta and its Suburbs for the year 1902.]

Discipline of the Force.

98. The discipline of the large force, which numbered 3,262 officers and men, was on the whole satisfactory, and departmental punishments decreased. On the other hand, judicial punishments increased from 11 to 20 and dismissals from 65 to 90.

Statistics of offences.

99. The total number of cognizable cases of all classes was 29,604, as against 25,115 in 1901. In these figures, however, are included a large number of offences of a petty nature, the larger proportion of which are infractions of the Police Act, the Nuisance laws, and the Cruelty to Animals Act. Under this head there was an increase of 4,784 cases as compared with the figures of the preceding year. Excluding such offences, 4,926 cognizable cases were reported as against 5,221 of the preceding year—a satisfactory decrease. Of the 720 cognizable cases instituted before a Magistrate, 151 were dismissed without summoning the accused, while of the remainder only 92 ended in conviction—a percentage of 12·7 on institutions. Of the police cases, 2,393 were sent up for trial, of which 1,934, or 80·8 per cent., ended in conviction. These latter figures indicate that the Calcutta Police have on the whole shown commendable discretion in sending up cases for trial. The results of investigations of murder cases were not entirely satisfactory, as in 4 out of 11 cases the offenders were not detected.

100. The institutions under the Police Act, which betrayed such a remarkable decrease last year, have risen again to what may be regarded as an approach to the normal figure. They were 8,628 as against 5,809 in 1901, 10,037 in 1900, and 11,098 in 1899. The rise no doubt indicates a return of confidence to the police force, especially in dealing with offences relating to traffic, to the lack of which the Commissioner of Police last year attributed the decrease in the number of offences reported.

A considerable decrease in the number of cases under the Cruelty to Animals Act is noticeable. These cases numbered 5,554 as against 6,294. No explanation is given of this decrease, which it would perhaps be too sanguine to assign to the beneficent operation of the Act alone.

* The information given in this paragraph is not taken from the Police Report, but from a separate report submitted to the Government of India.

101. The total number of offenders who were tried by the Courts in whose cases proof of previous conviction was admissible was 2,667, of whom 1,993 were convicted. No less than 837 persons convicted were old offenders, against whom previous convictions were proved, *i.e.*, 42 per cent. of the total number convicted. If cases of theft by a servant, and criminal breach of trust—crimes which are rarely attended by previous conviction, and which numbered 1,095—be excluded, the percentage would be even more striking. These figures establish beyond doubt that those who commit crimes against property in Calcutta are professional criminals. Out of the 837 persons previously convicted, no fewer than 491 had two or more convictions, and 100 had already been convicted on *five* previous occasions. As only 30 of these offenders were committed to the Sessions, it would appear that the Magistracy of Calcutta have been too ready to deal summarily with old offenders who should have been committed to the Sessions Court.

102. One hundred and thirty-one cases were declared false, a considerable increase on the figures of the two preceding years, viz., 82 and 73, respectively. In 13 cases only were proceedings instituted, as a result of which one accused was fined and five were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from one to three months. These figures warrant the conclusion that the police were over-cautious in instituting such prosecutions, and the Courts unduly lenient in dealing with the offence when established.

103. Fourteen thousand six hundred and thirty-eight non-cognizable cases were instituted during the year. The number pending at the commencement of the year was 1,013, and at the close of the year 1,550 cases were pending. On examining the figures relating to these cases, it appears that no less than 1,308 out of 1,550 remained under investigation otherwise than by the police. Such discredit as these figures suggest, must fall therefore on the Courts and not on the police.

Working of the Arms Act (XI of 1878).

104. There was a large increase in the importation of fire-arms during the year under review, ascribed by the Commissioner of Police to the establishment of a new European firm, the Army and Navy Stores, who laid in a stock of fire-arms during 1902. There was a large increase in the transport of rifles and guns to outside Provinces, which is said to be due to the opening of several gun-dealers' shops during the Delhi Durbar. Only seven prosecutions under the Act were instituted during the year in the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta.

Working of the Fire-Brigade.

105. There were altogether 137 fires reported in the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta and Howrah during the year against 106 in 1901, and the Fire-Brigade was called out on 52 occasions. The total loss of property by fire was estimated at Rs. 13,19,545, the two most serious fires occurring in Jute Presses at Cossipur and in the Upper Chitpur Road. In the former the loss was estimated at five and-a-half lakhs of rupees, and in the latter at roughly four lakhs.

European Vagrancy Act (IX of 1874).

106. During the year 77 Calcutta and up-country vagrants were sent to the Government workhouse and 8 were received from Rangoon: 15 were in the workhouse at the beginning of the year, bringing up the total number to 100. Of these, 28 were discharged under section 15 of the Act, 12 were released under section 16, 6 were deported under section 17, and 26 absconded. A new workhouse was built by Government during the year.

Miscellaneous.

107. There were in all 134 suicides during the year, death in 50 per cent. of the cases being caused by opium poisoning. The total number of accidental deaths was 381, and 268 persons were prosecuted for rash and negligent driving. Forty-one juvenile offenders were sent to the Reformatory School, and 34 persons were dealt with under section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, against 12 in 1901.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1902; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IV.]

GENERAL.

108. A new subdivision was opened at Gumla in the Ranchi district on the 15th November 1902. There was no other material change in the number and constitution of the Criminal Courts of the Province.

The most noticeable feature in the administration of the year was a further decline in the work of Courts of first instance as compared with the previous years. A smaller number of witnesses was examined by those Courts; but notwithstanding this, there was an increase in the pending files. There was at the same time a slight increase of the appellate work, and a decline of the revisional work of the Courts of Magistrates. The arrears on the appellate files at the close of the year were diminished, but there was a slight rise in the pending files of revisional cases as compared with the preceding year.

In the Courts of Session there was a decline in the Sessions work of the year, and the arrears on the pending files were reduced. There was also a slight decline in the appellate work of Sessions Judges and there was a reduction of arrears at the close of the year. There was no variation in the revisional work of Sessions Judges during the last two years.

In the High Court there was an increase of appeals against sentences passed by Sessions Judges and Presidency Magistrates. There was also a further considerable increase in the number of applications made under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Receipts and charges.

109. Debiting, as usual, to the administration of Criminal Justice, a proportion of the salaries of Judicial officers fixed by the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 31,19,917. Of this amount, Rs. 19,93,963 were for the salaries of Judicial officers; Rs. 1,46,389 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 97,170 for process-servers; Rs. 4,76,582 for other establishments; and Rs. 4,05,813 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 16,10,801. Of this amount, Rs. 7,19,067 were under fines; Rs. 1,98,706 under process fees; Rs. 1,80,748 under copying and comparing fees; Rs, 4,00,947 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and Rs. 1,11,333 were miscellaneous receipts. Both charges and receipts exceed those of 1901 by nearly thirty and twenty thousand rupees, respectively.

Offences.

110. There were 299,060 Criminal offences reported during the year. Of the total, 200,815 were under the Penal Code, and 98,245 under Special and Local Laws. These totals are less by 1,799 and 1,304, respectively, than those of 1901.

Including cases pending enquiry at the close of 1901, the number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed during the year was 58,822, or 19·6 per cent. of the total number of offences reported during the year. Complaints were dismissed in 48,659 cases, and 10,223 cases were declared to be false after trial or enquiry. Of the total number of cases under enquiry during the year, 238,132 were found to be true, and of these 172,644 were brought to trial.

Cases against European British subjects.

111. Seventy-seven cases were brought against European British subjects during the year. The number exceeds that of 1901 by 20; but, with the exception of the years 1899 and 1901, is the smallest on record. Seven cases were pending at the opening of the year and at its close; 77 having been disposed of during the year. Of the cases disposed of, 73 were tried by European Magistrates, two by Native Magistrates, one by a European Sessions Judge and one by the High Court. The number of persons concerned in these cases was 84, and of these, four claimed a mixed jury. The cases of 81 persons were finally disposed of by Magistrates; and of these, 41 were convicted and 40 acquitted. The majority of these were concerned in offences under special and local laws, and in cases of assault. The largest number of Europeans were tried in Darjeeling (31), Howrah (12), the 24-Parganas (10) and Hooghly (7).

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

112. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 27,312 were in the Courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency Town, and 145,367 in the Courts of the Magistrates in the mufassal.

An increase of 3,789 cases in the Magistrates' Courts in the Presidency Town was almost entirely confined to cases under Special Laws, cases under the Police Act having risen from 6,450 to 9,152, and cases under the Municipal Act from 6,356 to 7,241. In 1901 there was a considerable decline in the prosecutions for such offences.

Police Magistrates:

113. Before Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, 19,322 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 15,117 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 2,194 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly and 2,011 before Benches. Of the total disposed of, 46 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by Magistrates, 3,654 being under ordinary, and the remainder under summary procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrates was 18,606. The aggregate number of persons under trial was 25,092. The percentage of conviction was in the Courts of Stipendiary Magistrates 93·8, and in the Courts of Benches and Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, respectively, 65·8 and 83.

Thirty-four sentences of imprisonment were in the case of youthful offenders commuted to detention in a Reformatory School; 965 convicted persons were warned and discharged.

Municipal Magistrate.

114. The number of cases brought before the Court of the Municipal Magistrate during the year was 7,963, of which 7,236 cases were under the Calcutta Municipal Act. The number disposed of was 7,953, of which 7,352 were decided summarily.

MAGISTRATES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

Magistrates outside Calcutta.

115. At the opening of the year 4,818 cases were pending before Magistrates outside Calcutta, and 145,367 were brought to trial during the year, including references under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Of these, 145,058 were disposed of and 4,998 remained undecided at the close of the year. There was a further decrease in the number of cases brought to trial, the total being 4,680 less than in 1901. The decrease was chiefly in cases under special laws and in cases of offences against property and of offences affecting the human body. There was a marked increase in the number of cases of offences relating to public servants. The number of cases pending at the close of the year was larger than at the close of 1901, notwithstanding the decline in the number of cases coming before the Courts.

The disposals were distributed as follows :—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	1,054	198
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	72,813	29,590
Honorary Magistrates	16,515	1,423
Benches of Magistrates	10,822	12,456
Special Magistrates	68	...

Results of trials.

116. Of the total number of cases, 1,778 were committed or referred to the Sessions and 143,280 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In these latter, 204,976 persons were accused. Of the total, 121,401, or 59·2 per cent., were convicted, against a percentage of 58·7 in 1901.

The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of Magistrates	8,941	18,265	67·1
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	63,886	89,019	58·2
Honorary Magistrates	9,498	12,991	57·7
Special Magistrates	31	49	61·2
District Magistrates	1,219	1,077	46·9

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows :—

	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On Regular trial	54,323	22,353
On Summary trial	11,068	33,657

The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment	Rigorous	24,616
	Simple	623
Fine	With imprisonment	3,591
	Without imprisonment	82,005
Whipping	Sole punishment	1,585
	Additional punishment	376

A term of solitary confinement was included in 403 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 78 youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Four thousand three hundred and forty-seven persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 4,135 of whom were sentenced to terms not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the order, and 238 persons were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken in 88 instances and 88 persons were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 9,948 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 2,113 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace.

Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 4,933 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 16,083 for terms not exceeding six months; 8,144 for terms not exceeding two years, and 136 for terms over two years.

The variation in the number of sentences of whipping passed during the last two years is slight, the figures being 1,984 for 1901 and 1,961 for 1902.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 7,41,063. The amount realized during the year was Rs. 6,57,692; and Rs. 73,390 out of the fines realized were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous Proceedings under Criminal Procedure Code.

117. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by Magistrates in the mufassal during the year.

Proceedings under Chapter VIII of the Code to prevent a breach of the peace were taken in 3,700 cases, or 109 less than in 1901. In these cases, 15,834 persons were involved. Of these, 7,835 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace in addition to the persons mentioned above as well as those bound down on conviction.

In 2,977 cases, 6,095 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute in the case of 4,757 of them. Of the latter, 4,544 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 409 after reference to the Court of Session under section 123 of the Code, and as already stated in the preceding paragraph, 4,135 for terms not exceeding one year under orders of Magistrates.

Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 796 cases, and in the cases of 458 persons a reference was made to a Jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code involving questions of the possession of land decided by Magistrates during the year was 2,404, an increase of 510 on the figures for 1901.

Under section 250 of the Code, 1,129 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 892 persons, and orders were made absolute against 328.

Witness.

118. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 472,478 as compared with 483,840 in 1901. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 169,564, or 264 per cent., of the whole number in attendance. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 41,051 in 1901 to Rs. 47,759 in 1902, notwithstanding the decrease in the number of witnesses examined.

Of the total number in attendance, 491,682 (76·6 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 108,925 (16·9 per cent.) on the second; 30,195 (4·7 per cent.) on the third; and 11,240 (1·8 per cent). after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 2,213 short of the number detained for that period in 1901.

COURTS OF SESSION.

Commitments.

119. The number of cases committed for trial, or referred, during the year was 1,778, or 74 less than in 1901, and the number of cases disposed of, including pending cases of the previous year, was 1,860, being 71 more than in 1901. The pending files were 245 cases, as compared with 352 of 1901. The number of commitments in Mymensingh continues the largest in the Province.

Results of trials.

120. There were 4,525 persons under trial before Courts of Session during the year, and the cases of 4,014 were decided. Of these, 2,381, or 61·6 per cent., were convicted and 1,480 were acquitted or discharged; and the cases of 153 persons were committed or referred. The proportion of convictions is slightly lower than that of 1901.

Punishments.

121. The following sentences were passed by Courts of Session during the last two years:—

		1901.	1902.
Death	... ...	53	65
Transportation	For life	174	154
	For a term of years	81	96
Imprisonment	Rigorous	1,712	1,676
	Simple	14	18
Fine ...	... ...	103	114
Whipping	... ...	39	30

In the case of 50 out of the 1,676 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, that sentence included terms of solitary confinement; and in the case of six youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Additional punishments were inflicted upon 96 of the persons sentenced to fine and on 25 of those sentenced to whipping. Besides the above, 409 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (52 for terms not exceeding one year and 357 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and two persons who had been convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were required to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

		1901.	1902.
Not exceeding	15 days	13	4
	6 months	124	170
	2 years	572	564
	7 „	1,136	1,266
Exceeding 7 years	... ...	165	96

Fines to the amount of Rs. 12,086 were imposed by Courts of Session, as compared with Rs. 14,279 imposed in 1901. The total realizations of the year aggregated Rs. 5,490, as compared with Rs. 7,866 in 1901. The amount of fines realized and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 525 in 1902 as compared with Rs. 4,213 in 1901.

Jury trials.

122. The number of persons tried by Jury during 1902 was 1,130; and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the Jury in respect of 1,007 persons and disapproved of it in respect of 123. In the case of 85 persons, the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict so completely as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to make a reference to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given below under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

Trials by Assessors.

123. Two thousand two hundred and ninety-one persons were tried with the aid of Assessors during the year under review, with the result that in the case of 1,602 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the Assessors; in the case of 315, he differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 374, he differed from the opinion of both Assessors.

Duration of cases.

124. The average duration of Sessions trials from the date of commitment to the date of decision was 51 days, which is a slight improvement on the results of previous years.

Witnesses.

125. The number of witnesses in attendance before Courts of Session was 26,882. Of these, 17,743 were examined and 9,139 discharged without examination.

Of the total number in attendance, 11,241 (41·8 per cent) were discharged on the first day; 8,158 (30·3 per cent.) on the second; 4,177 (15·5 per cent.) on the third, and 3,306 (12·4 per cent.) after the third day. These results are somewhat more satisfactory than the results of 1901, considering the larger number of witnesses examined. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending Sessions trials was Rs. 33,214, as compared with Rs. 35,133 in 1901.

Commitments, etc., to the High Court.

126. Including 11 cases pending at the opening of the year, 59 cases came before the High Court for trial. Of these, 48 were tried during the year, and 11 remained undecided at its close.

Altogether 63 persons (inclusive of one European British subject committed by the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas) were tried, of whom 48 were convicted and 15 were acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 400, and the average duration of cases from commitment, 37·9 days.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

High Court.

Appeals.

127. At the opening of 1902 there were 112 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year 1,006 appeals were preferred and 1,036 decided.

Of the appeals against sentences preferred during the year, 910 were from Courts of Session, 73 were from Presidency Magistrates, and 10 from Deputy Commissioners exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Thirteen appeals were preferred by the Local Government against acquittals.

There were 936 appeals against sentences of Courts of Session decided during the year. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 701 instances, reversed in 83, and modified in 136. Sixteen cases were remanded for re-trial.

Seventy-three appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the Presidency Town were decided during the year, the orders being affirmed in 72 cases and modified in one case. Ten appeals from sentences passed by Deputy Commissioners were decided during the year, the orders being confirmed in eight cases and modified in two.

Seventeen appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. In four cases the order was upheld, and in ten it was reversed and three cases were directed to be re-tried.

The result of the appeals decided during the year, as affecting individuals, was that the appeals of 863 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that, in admitted appeals, sentences on 540 appellants were confirmed, on 7 enhanced, on 181 reduced or altered, and on 211 annulled. In 30 cases a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

APPELLATE COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Sessions Courts.

128. During the year 6,487 appeals were decided, by Courts of Session, involving 10,688 persons.

The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 66·4, 11·3 and 20·9 per cent., respectively.

Magistrates' Courts.

129. In the Courts of Magistrates 5,169 appeals, involving 8,540 persons, were decided.

Of these, 70·3 per cent. were wholly unsuccessful, 8·1 per cent. obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 20·5 per cent. their total annulment.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

High Court.

References under section 307, C. Cr. P.

130. Fifty-seven references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of Juries were decided during the year, with the result that the verdict of the jury was accepted in 20 cases, rejected in 35 and modified in 2.

References under section 374, C. Cr. P.

131. Forty-six references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were decided during the year. In these, 65 persons were concerned. Of these, the death sentences on 38 were confirmed, and in the case of 14, their sentence was commuted to transportation for life. In the case of one person, a sentence of seven years' rigorous imprisonment was substituted, the accused having been convicted by the High Court of a minor offence, and in the cases of two persons re-trials were ordered. The remaining 10 persons were acquitted.

Revision.

132. Two hundred and seventy cases, reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, were decided, the number reported during the year being 71 less than in 1901. In 135 cases, the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 45 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 11 cases and enhanced in 10. In the remaining 69 cases, the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 1,331 cases, an increase of 208 on the figures of 1901. Of these, 1,316 came before the High Court on application made to it, and 15 were taken up on review of the periodical Sessions statements submitted by Sessions Judges.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 669 were rejected. Of 647 rules issued, 237 were finally discharged; 227 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 87 cases; in 86 cases a new trial was ordered; and 10 cases were transferred to other Courts for trial.

Of the 15 cases taken up by the High Court on review of Sessions statements, in eight the orders passed by the Lower Court were not disturbed; in two the sentences were reduced; in two they were enhanced; and in three the orders were reversed.

Applications for transfer.

133. One hundred and thirty-two applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the transfer of cases from one Court or district to another, were dealt with during the year. Of these, 45 were summarily rejected and in 58 cases transfers were granted without issue of a rule. In 29 cases rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 16 and refused in 13 cases.

COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Sessions Courts.

134. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the Courts of Magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 6,690 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session during the year. The applications of 2,749 persons were rejected, and as regards 1,194, the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 39 persons were reversed; in 48 instances proceedings were quashed; and the order of the Lower Court was modified in the case of 22 persons. In the cases of 2,198 persons new trials or further enquiries were directed and the cases of 440 were referred to the High Court.

Magistrates' Courts.

135. The cases of 3,504 accused persons who applied for revision, and against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The total number was smaller by 547 than in 1901. Of the total, the applications of 1,492 persons were rejected and in the cases of 737 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 20 persons were modified and those affecting 279 were reversed. In the cases of 33 persons, proceedings were quashed, and in those of 875, new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 68 persons were referred to the High Court.

Criminal Justice in the Sonthal Parganas.

136. There were 8,648 persons under trial during the year, as against 8,163 in the preceding year. Of these, 4,817 were convicted. One thousand seven hundred and forty-three cases were reported under "Theft," 1,662 under "Criminal Force and Assault," 1,415 under "Criminal Trespass," and 2,078 under "Offences under Special and Local Laws." Of the cases under "Criminal Force and Assault" and "Criminal Trespass," only 753 and 725, respectively, were returned as true. In 159 cases whippings were inflicted: 460 persons appealed to the Deputy Commissioner in the case of 37 the original

sentence passed was reduced, and in the case of 80 it was reversed. Nineteen persons appealed to the Commissioner and five succeeded in getting the sentences passed on them reduced or reversed; 89 persons applied to the Deputy Commissioner for revision of the sentences passed in their case, of whom two obtained a reduction or reversal of the sentence passed, and 10 an order for a new trial or further inquiry. There were 139 applicants for revision before the Commissioner. In the case of 23 the sentence passed was reduced or reversed, and in the case of 2 a new trial or further enquiry was ordered.

Jails.

[Administration Report on the Jails of Bengal for 1902; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section V.]

137. The number of convicts at the beginning of the year was 19,679, and 39,024 were imprisoned during the year against 40,070 in 1901. **Jail population.**

138. The statistics given as to the religion, age, education and previous occupation of the convicts and the length and character of sentence imposed show little variation from those of the previous year. There was a slight increase in the proportion of juveniles to total admissions. The number of reconvicted prisoners was 5,042 against 5,439 in 1901, the ratio per cent. to the total number of convicts admitted being 12·92. A rise in the number of habituals has been noticed during the past ten years, and though in this circumstance the Inspector-General of Jails finds an example of the recidivism observed in the prison statistics of other countries, a simpler explanation may be the better identification of previous convicts due to the introduction and better administration of the thumb-impression system. There were 2,062 under-trial prisoners under confinement on the 1st January 1902, and 37,734 were admitted during the year. The number of civil prisoners admitted was 781. The daily average number of all classes of prisoners was 21,717, which is the highest on record in the history of the Jails of the province since 1876, a year following a period of famine and distress, when it was 21,820.

139. The total number of jail offences was 34,458 as compared with 40,267 of the previous year, a decrease of over 14 per cent., which is the more noteworthy in view of the increase during the year in the daily average number of prisoners. Only 29 offences required to be dealt with by the Criminal Courts against 49 in 1901, and corporal punishments show a progressive decrease. In connection with the question of jail punishments, much attention has in late years been paid to the marks and remission system. So far as any deductions can be made from the statistics furnished with regard to the working of the system, it would appear that the ordinary marks granted for purely negative good conduct are of comparatively little utility, and that the future development of the system will be most successful in the direction of award of special marks carrying remission for unusually good work. **Jail offences.**

140. The death-rate of 25·4 per mille is the lowest recorded during the last ten years, with the exception of the years 1898 and 1899, and compares very favourably with the provincial death-rate for the year, which was 33·43 per mille. Considering that a large proportion of the jail population must always be drawn from those classes, whose vitality is considerably below the normal standard, the figures indicate unmistakably the care with which the officers of the Jail Department supervised the health of the prisoners. In some of the jails, however, the death-rate was high: in Midnapore, which has for many years figured as the most unhealthy of the Central Jails, it was 53·7. Of the 62 deaths, 25 were due to dysentery, and 15 to tuberculosis and pneumonia: and after making due allowance for the general unhealthiness of the Midnapore district, and for the indifferent health of prisoners on admission, there seems good reason for supposing that special causes operate to cause unhealthiness in the jail, namely, defective water-supply and overcrowding. Of the 12 deaths in Krishnagar Jail, 8 were due to dysentery. The district was unhealthy and the jail suffered from frequent changes of Superintendents. To this cause the Inspector-General is inclined to attribute some laxity in prompt and efficient treatment of cases of incipient dysentery. In the Berhampore, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga Jails, unfortunate circumstances over which the jail authorities had no control raised the death-rate, *i.e.*, the breakdown of the Municipal **Jail mortality.**

water-works in Berhampore and the unhealthiness of prisoners admitted into the Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga Jails. In Rangpur there was frequent overcrowding. The Barisal Jail returns by far the heaviest death-rate for the year—83·8 per mille, in spite of thorough arrangements for the early detection and the prompt and efficient treatment of the sick. It is probable that overcrowding and a bad water-supply partly account for the deaths due to dysentery: in addition the jail authorities had to deal with an outbreak of epidemic dropsy, an obscure disease, which caused at least eight deaths and was suspected as the cause of death in five or six other cases. A new hospital is under erection in the jail, and there is a prospect of the water difficulty being overcome. The jails at Puri, Mymensingh, Monghyr, Hooghly and Bankipore show a gratifying improvement in their health returns, as compared with the figures of the preceding year.

Jail accommodation.

141. The total accommodation for prisoners available on the 31st December 1902 was for 23,527. The margin therefore between the capacity of the jails and the average daily number of prisoners (21,717) was small. During the year Rs. 1,58,739 were spent on original works. Progress was made with the permanent buildings for additional convict accommodation at Faridpur, Barisal, Dacca, Rampur Boalia, Bankipore and Cuttack. A new double-storied barrack at Mymensingh was practically finished by the end of the year, and a new under-trial ward, and additions to the female ward at Chaibassa were completed. The figures of capacity given above include temporary accommodation, and it is clear that considerable extensions of the jail buildings will have to be made before long, though the release of prisoners in honour of the Coronation has given temporary relief. The insufficiency of the accommodation for under-trial prisoners is not the least serious side of the question. In twenty District and Central Jails the average daily population of the under-trial wards was in excess of the accommodation, while in the case of the subsidiary jails the state of affairs was even worse, as the total average under-trial population of all subsidiary jails was in very considerable excess of the accommodation available in the under-trial wards. Doubtless, accommodation was often available in the convict wards and workshops of the jails, but the increase of the jail population will render expedients of this nature less and less possible in future years.

Employment of prisoners.

142. The forms of labour on which prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment were employed underwent little change, but there was a satisfactory increase in the amount of work done and in the profits made, which were Rs. 4,63,531, as compared with Rs. 2,75,561 in 1901. The cost of guard and maintenance of a prisoner for the year was Rs. 79, which is a slight decrease on that for the preceding year.

Warder service.

143. The state of the Jail Warder force still remains unsatisfactory. The Inspector-General complains that notwithstanding the recent increase in pay the Jail service continues to have insufficient attractions to obtain a good class of men. The long hours of duty, the absence of opportunities of perquisites, illiberal leave rules and unhealthy stations with bad quarters, are assigned as the causes of the unpopularity of the service.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1902; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section III.]

Judicial Staff.

144. The chief variation from previous years in the strength of the permanent Judicial staff of the Province was the appointment of an additional Judge of the High Court. Four Subordinate Judges were added to the cadre, and in addition to the permanent staff, a number of temporary officers were employed during the year.

General.

145. The progressive increase in the business of the courts of first instance was maintained in the year under notice. Though additional judicial strength was obtained, some districts return a number of long pending suits and the number of appeals under trial at the end of the year was greater than at the end of any of the previous nine years. The business of civil courts has also been added to considerably by the increasing number of judicial miscellaneous cases, often requiring as much time and attention as regular civil suits.

District and Additional Judges devoted, in 1902, 3,185 days to civil work. With an increase of 70 in the number of days so devoted, the number of original suits disposed of by them has risen perceptibly. But the number of regular appeals decided is, as already stated, somewhat deficient. The criminal work generally has, in recent years, made an increasing demand upon their time. Moreover, they have given comparatively more attention to the periodical inspection of the subordinate civil courts.

Receipts and surplus.

146. The receipts of the Civil Courts for the year under review amounted to Rs. 1,18,80,280, an increase of Rs. 8,04,071 on those of the previous year, chiefly contributed by an increase of more than six lakhs under court-fees other than process fees. Charges amounted to Rs. 56,62,013, an increase of Rs. 1,06,123 on those of 1901. Including the amount realised on account of duty on probates, etc., there was a surplus to Government from civil litigation of Rs. 62,18,267, and, exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 55,50,368, or more by Rs. 5,96,463 than the surplus of 1901. The surplus to Government from civil litigation in 1892, inclusive of the amount realised on account of duty on probates, etc., was Rs. 42,06,169.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

High Court.

Original suits.

147. The number of Civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1901 was 1,545, including 78 pending suits received by transfer from other courts, and the number instituted during 1902 was 910. Thus, exclusive of the above 78 cases, there was a total of 2,377 cases for disposal in 1902. Of the suits instituted, 517 were for money or moveable property, 165 were mortgage suits, and 86 were for immoveable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 52,54,431-6-6, as compared with Rs. 56,56,394-13-6 in the previous year.

The number of suits decided was 726, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,651. The number of suits pending for more than one year (929) showed a slight reduction as compared with 1901, when the number was 954.

Of the suits decided, 131 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 47 were withdrawn with leave, 26 were determined by compromise, 84 were decreed on confession, 203 were decreed *ex-parte*, 5 were dismissed *ex-parte*, 9 were disposed of by reference to arbitration, 173 were decreed after contest and 48 were dismissed after contest.

Extraordinary Jurisdiction, Probates, etc.

148. Three cases under the Extraordinary Jurisdiction were disposed of during the year, and one remained pending at its close. There were also disposed of 486 petitions for Probate and Letters of Administration, 3,450 interlocutory applications and 358 applications for summonses to witnesses.

Appeals from Original Jurisdiction.

149. The number of appeals from the Original to the Appellate side of the Court pending at the commencement of 1902 was 49, and 31 new appeals were preferred during the year. Of these appeals, 13 were dismissed for default and 37 were decided, the decrees of the Court of First instance being affirmed in 27, reversed in 8 and modified in 2 cases. Thirty such appeals remained undecided at the close of the year.

References from Calcutta Court of Small Causes, etc.

150. Out of six references from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes for disposal, one was disposed of, the judgment of the Court below being affirmed.

Seventy-four cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 37 applications were made to the High Court for transfer to the High Court. All the applications were granted. Of the 111 cases for disposal, 13 were decreed after trial, 6 were dismissed after trial, 1 was compromised, and 25 were dismissed for default. The remaining 66 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Three out of five applications made to the High Court under section 622 of the Code of Civil Procedure to call for records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were refused.

One hundred and seventy-five Insolvency cases were disposed of, but the number of pending cases at the close of the year rose from 179 to 211.

There were also disposed of during the year 25 applications for *ad interim* protection and 1,120 applications of a miscellaneous character.

Appeals to Privy Council.

151. Two appeals to the Privy Council were admitted during the year under review, the transcript records in one of which were transmitted to the Privy Council.

Financial.

152. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the Original Side during 1902 were respectively Rs. 7,53,581 and Rs. 3,57,415.

The number of bills taxed during the year was as follows:—

Between Party and Party	578
Between Attorney and Client	350

The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 16,077.

Civil Courts in the Mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

153. The most important changes in the constitution of mufassal Courts were the removal of the Court of the Munsif at Lohardaga to Gumla in the Ranchi district, and the abolition of the Phulbari munsifi in the district of Dinajpur.

Original suits.

154. The total number of ordinary suits and small causes instituted in the civil courts during the year amounted to 642,807, or 36,515 more than in 1901. The institutions were in excess of any of the previous years except 1900. The increase represents a recovery from a temporary check in institutions in 1901, and is partly due to the favourable character of the season.

The increase is common to all classes of suits, but it occurred chiefly in rent suits, the number instituted being 297,399 as against 266,736 in 1901. Suits for money and moveables, rent suits, and title suits show increases of 1·8, 11·4, and ·7 per cent., respectively.

Even as compared with 1900, when the institutions were the highest on record, suits under the Rent Law increased by 13,111. The following extract relating to the subject is taken from the report of the District Judge of Tirhut, where the increase was most marked:—

"The increase in the number of rent suits must be attributed chiefly to two causes—(1) that the tenants withheld rents during the pendency of the settlement operations in order to wait and see what rates would be settled; (2) that the landlords now have a record on which they can safely rely to prove the relationship of landlord and tenant and the rate of rent, and that their own papers were not such that they could safely ask the court to rely on them before. In addition to the above, there has been a substantial amount of dissatisfaction by the landlords with the rates of rent which have been settled by the Settlement Officers, and they are bringing suits in order to establish their claims to a rate higher than the khatian rate."

There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in all the districts, except Backergunge, Bankura, Cuttack, Murshidabad, Patna, Rajshahi and Chota Nagpur.

The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for trifling sums; in suits for money or moveables, 61·01 per cent., and in rent suits, 77·4 per cent. were for sums less than Rs. 50, their proportion to the number of suits instituted in each class being in the former case almost the same, and in the latter nearly 2 per cent. more than in the previous year.

Practically the whole of the suits under the Rent Law were for realisation of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 43·8 per cent. were mortgage suits, 38·7 for immoveable property, and 10·4 for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value, as in former years, more than half the total litigation of the Province. All of the 37 suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, were title suits.

In addition to the 642,807 suits instituted during the year and the 107,678 pending trial from the previous year, there were 19,117 suits revived, or received on remand or review during the year, making a total for disposal of 769,602. The total number of suits disposed of by the several civil courts has risen from 628,662 in 1901 to 664,599 during 1902. This number is in excess of that for any preceding year. Of the total disposed of, 632,772 were disposed of by Munsifs, 14,411 by Subordinate Judges, 16,750 by Small Cause Court Judges, and 666 by District and Additional Judges.

In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 140,398 cases or 21·1 per cent., of which 97,646 were dismissed for default; in 97,916 cases or 14·7 per cent. a compromise was effected; and plaintiffs were successful in 426,285 cases or 64·2 per cent. Plaintiffs were more successful, though in a slight degree only, than in the preceding year.

Of the 125,644 suits decided on contest, 102,423 or 81·5 per cent. resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 23,221 or 18·5 per cent. in favour of defendants.

The proportion of applications for re-trial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default or in which decrees were made *ex-parte* was fractionally less than in the previous year, the numbers being 30,869 and 406,010 respectively. The applications were successful in 18,218 cases or 59·01 per cent. Applications were less successful than in the five preceding years.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

155. The suits disposed of by Munsifs were 34,517 more than in the last year. The average number of suits disposed of to each Munsif employed throughout the year was 2,048 as against 1,994 in 1901. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 29·5 per cent. of the total number disposed of by Munsifs. The increase is under both uncontested and contested suits, and is owing chiefly to the staff being kept in full activity.

The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs in 1902 was 118,251, or 18·6 per cent. of the total. In the three previous years the proportion was 18·3 per cent., 17·3 per cent., and 17·7, respectively. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif in 1902 rose from 366 in 1901 to 383 in 1902. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 20·5 per cent., and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure 14·1.

The figures are—

Under ordinary Procedure.		Under Small Cause Court Procedure.		Total.
Contested.	Uncontested.	Contested.	Uncontested.	
91,875	354,149	26,376	160,372	632,772

The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure is considerably the highest on record.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

156. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges in 1902 was 14,411, a decrease of 186 on the figures of the previous year. It is remarkable that the decrease occurred entirely in cases decided in the exercise of Small Cause Court powers, which fell from 9,359 to 8,945, those decided under the ordinary procedure having increased from 5,238 to 5,466. The number of contested suits decided under ordinary procedure was 2,422, and that under powers of a Small Cause Court 1,817; the percentages to the totals decided being 44·3 and 20·3, respectively. The proportion of suits decided on contest under ordinary procedure shows a perceptible increase.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

157. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 16,750 original suits, of which 2,861 were contested.

Average duration of cases.

158. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided during the past year by the several grades of courts shows no marked difference from the results of the previous year, except in the case of District Judges. The returns show a considerable rise in regard to suits tried by them.

Pending suits.

159. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was further reduced from 107,678 to 105,008. The increase in institutions was met by a corresponding increase in disposals. The number of suits remaining under trial, however, is still excessive.

Of the pending cases, 1,838 had been pending for more than a year, 9,430 for more than six months, and 30,504 for more than three months. There has been a considerable diminution in the number of suits pending for more than one year, which is satisfactory. Of the suits pending over one year, 875 were in the courts of Munsifs, and 964 in the courts of the District and Subordinate Judges.

Execution Proceedings.

160. There were 92,080 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 458,265 such applications were made during the

year. Realisation was complete in 133,118 cases and partial in 104,927. In 201,897 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 103,672 remained pending at the close of the year. The total amount realised in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 2,17,46,054.

Debtors were imprisoned in 383 cases, moveable property was sold in 13,204, and immoveable in 64,523.

Miscellaneous cases.

161. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 72,608 in 1901 to 75,573; the number disposed of from 73,077 to 75,227, and the number pending from 15,037 to 16,096. Of the cases disposed of 28,795 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 23,280 were decided *ex-parte;* and 23,152 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 55·3 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 192 had been pending for more than a year. The fluctuations are normal.

The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted during the year were 21,558 in number. Of these, as usual, two-thirds were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 21,354, and the pending file rose to 3,324. There has been a remarkable falling off in the number of cases of this class instituted in 1902.

Calcutta Small Cause Court.

162. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1902 and the number pending at its close were 21,965, 22,373, and 2,427, respectively. Both institutions and disposals show an increase over the previous year's figures. The number of pending suits has steadily risen from 1,205 in 1899 to its present figure.

The increase in institutions was in suits of every degree of value, except in those between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50, which show a trifling decrease. The increase occurred chiefly in suits valued at Rs. 100 and Rs. 500. The number of suits above Rs. 1,000 rose from 367 in 1901 to 424.

The total value of the litigation in the Presidency Small Cause Court was Rs. 29,84,781 during the year, as against Rs. 25,09,909 in the preceding year.

Of the 22,373 suits disposed of during the year, 1,469 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution or were withdrawn with leave, 17,613 were decided without contest, 3,290 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in one the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Of the 2,427 suits remaining under trial at the close of 1902, only 43 had been pending for more than three months.

Execution of Decrees.

163. Out of 28,667 applications for the execution of decrees dealt with in the Presidency Small Cause Court, of which 738 were pending from the previous year, 27,791 were determined and 876 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the latter, 162 were more than three months old. Of the applications disposed of, 22,650 resulted in whole or partial satisfaction of the decrees granted, 4,261 were returned as wholly infructuous, and 880 were transferred to other courts.

The total amount realised was Rs. 7,85,842, as compared with Rs. 7,21,023 in the previous year.

In order to enforce the execution of decrees, imprisonment was resorted to in 110 cases and sale of moveables in 660. The number is less in the former case and greater in the latter than in 1901.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

High Court.

Appeals under the Letters Patent.

164. Under section 15 of the Letters Patent there were 31 appeals filed during the year, and 49 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 50 were decided and 30 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was almost double that of 1901. Of the number undecided, four had been pending for more than a year. No Second or Third Appeals came before the Court.

Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from Subordinate Courts.

165. The number of First and Second Appeals from the decrees and orders of the Provincial Courts as Courts of Original and Appellate Jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the past year, is shown in the margin. The figures include appeals from the courts of Assam and the Chief Court of Burma. The institutions of First and of Second Appeals from decrees were, respectively, 115 and 205 more than in 1901. First Appeals from orders were 84 less and Second Appeals from orders 61 more numerous than in 1901.

	Pending at the end of 1901.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1902.
First Appeals.				
From Decrees .	1,005	476	285	1,196
„ Orders .	435	276	349	362
Second Appeals.				
From Decrees .	5,395	2,904	2,529	5,770
„ Orders .	143	220	229	134
Total .	6,978	3,876	3,392	7,462

The number of First Appeals from Decrees decided is fewer than that of 1901 by 67: while the disposals of Second Appeals from Decrees and of Appeals from Orders exceed by 117 and 178, respectively.

At the close of the year there were pending 1,558 First Appeals, of which 1,196 were from decrees and 362 from orders; and 5,904 Second Appeals, of which 5,770 were from decrees. The total exceeds that of the number pending at the close of 1901 by 484, and of 1900 by 899.

The number decided, though much in excess of the figures of the previous year, fell far short of the number preferred, and the number of appeals before the High Court shows, consequently, a further increase.

Of the 476 appeals from Original Decrees instituted during the year under review, 6 were from Assam and the remainder from the districts of Bengal.

Results of Appeals.

166. Of the 285 appeals from Original Decrees decided during the year, 44 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. Of those decided after contest, 167 decrees of the lower courts were confirmed, 23 reversed, 30 varied and 21 remanded.

Of the 2,529 appeals from Appellate Decrees, 1,205 were uncontested. One thousand three hundred and twenty-four were heard and determined, with the result that 1,136 decrees of the lower courts were affirmed, 41 reversed, 30 varied and 117 remanded.

Of the 578 appeals from Orders decided during the last year, 129 were uncontested and 449 were decided after trial. Of the latter, 318 orders of the lower courts were affirmed, 51 reversed, 16 varied, and 64 remanded.

The following table shows the result of the appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges:—

		Affirmed.		Modified or reversed.	
		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from Original Decrees	...	63	104	21	32
Appeals from Appellate Decrees	...	510	626	41	30
Miscellaneous Appeals	...	131	187	33	34

Appeals to the Privy Council.

167. At the opening of the year, 17 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England, and 22 were pending orders. Twenty-one new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 24 were struck off or compromised, 19 were despatched to England, and 17 appeals—8 of 1901 and 9 of 1902—were pending at the close of the year. Of the pending appeals, 9 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year. The results of 12 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 10 instances, reversed in one, and varied in one.

Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Regular Appeals: Institutions.

168. There were 20,587 regular appeals instituted in 1902. The number was in excess of any of the preceding three years, but less numerous than in 1898.

Of the number instituted in 1902, 9,032 were in title suits, 9,102 in rent suits, and 2,453 in suits for money or moveables. Appeals of the first-named class have increased considerably in number.

The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 2,593 and 7,033, respectively. There has been the same slight increase in the proportion of institutions of appeals of low value. The total value of appeals instituted in the subordinate courts in 1902 was Rs. 33,57,450, exceeding the total of 1901 by over half a lakh.

The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by subordinate courts during the year, was 85,774; and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of Revenue Officers, was 23·5 per cent. as against 25·6 of the previous year.

Appeals disposed of.

169. The number of appeals decided (19,521) was smaller than in 1901 by 315, and was also short of the number preferred. The decrease has occurred in the disposals of District and Additional Judges, who disposed of 784 fewer appeals than in 1901; disposals by Subordinate Judges showing a still further increase of 469. This would seem to indicate that the District Judges were generally more occupied on the criminal side of their courts.

Appeals pending.

170. The number of disposals not having kept pace with the institutions, there was a still further increase of arrears, the number of appeals pending at the close of 1902 showing an increase of 1,464 and amounting to 13,050.

The number of appeals pending for more than one year has increased during the year, there being at its close 624 as compared with 582 in 1901. Appeals pending for more than three months also rose from 4,486 to 5,779.

Result of appeals.

171. The result of the decisions of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows:—In 11,079 cases, or 56·7 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 1,960 cases, or 10·1 per cent., it was modified; and in 3,505, or 17·9 per cent., it was reversed. The relative proportions of the above figures are normal. The results are slightly more favourable to the lower courts than those of the preceding year. Eight hundred and thirty-seven appeals were remanded and 2,140 otherwise disposed of, that is, not prosecuted, or dismissed for default.

Miscellaneous appeals.

172. There were 2,836 miscellaneous appeals instituted during the year, and 2,966 were disposed of; 655 remaining pending at the close of the year.

Administration of Civil Justice in the Sonthal Parganas.

173. The total number of all suits instituted during the year in the Sonthal Parganas was 11,450; the number of money suits was 6,081, that of rent suits 3,869, and that of title and other suits 1,500. The number of suits instituted under Act XII of 1887 was 80 against 120, of which the value was Rs. 1,43,876 against Rs. 4,26,452. Including pending and re-instituted suits the total number for disposal was 139, of which 89 were disposed of, leaving pending at the close of the year 50. Of the cases for disposal only 29 were contested. Four regular and three miscellaneous appeals were made to the Calcutta High Court, but their results were not known at the end of the year. The total number of civil suits under Act XXXVII of 1856 (including those pending and re-instituted) for disposal was 12,816. The number actually disposed of was 11,320. Money suits disposed of have for the whole district fallen from 6,534 in 1900 to 6,017 in 1902, the fall being especially noticeable in Dumka and Pakaur. There were 445 appeals before the Subdivisional Officers, 254 before the Deputy Commissioner, and 152 before the Commissioner. Of these, the number contested were 419, 182, and 69, respectively. The number pending before all Courts at the close of the year was 69. The number of appeals actually disposed of by the Commissioner was 121, by the Deputy Commissioner 235, and by the Subdivisional Officers 426. The number of applications for execution of decrees was 10,136 against 9,626 in the previous year, of which 2,588 were fully, and 1,264 partially, satisfied, against 1,746 and 1,140, respectively, in 1901. The result of execution work was thus decidedly better than in the year before, but as there were still 4,832 applications wholly infructuous, it cannot be considered satisfactory. The number of suits decided by reference to arbitration (525) was higher than in 1899 and 1900, though slightly less than in last year. The percentage of witnesses detained over two days (3·52) has slightly increased from last year, but is lower than in 1900.

Registration.

[Statistical Returns with a brief note of the Registration Department in Bengal, 1902; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India; section IX.]

Registration offices.

174. Twelve new offices were opened during the year, and at the close of 1902 there were in existence 448 offices.

Registrations.

175. The total number of registrations increased from 1,418,553 in 1901 to 1,468,095, *i.e.*, by 3·5 per cent.

The total receipts increased from Rs. 16,17,727 in 1901, to Rs. 16,80,111 in 1902, and expenditure from Rs. 8,76,279 to Rs. 8,98,102.

176. The total number of registrations of sales of immoveable property increased from 371,883 in 1901 to 397,791, *i.e.*, by 6·9 per cent. The actual percentage of increase was much larger in Darbhanga, Singhbhum, Pabna, Balasore, Midnapore, Muzaffarpur, Jalpaiguri, 24-Parganas, Malda, Rangpur and Mymensingh.

Mortgages, the registration of which is compulsory, increased from 152,999 in 1901 to 161,334, *i.e.*, by 5·4 per cent. Mortgages, the registration of which is optional, increased from 243,257 in 1901 to 248,470 or by 2·1 per cent.

There was a large falling off (30·1 per cent.) in the number of mortgages of the second class in the 24-Parganas, owing to good harvests and consequent prosperity of the agricultural classes.

The number of perpetual leases decreased from 97,731 in 1901 to 96,993, *i.e.*, by ·7 per cent. The number of such leases fell off in the districts of the Burdwan Division owing to completion, in some districts, of the settlement of *chaukidari chakran* and *ghatwali* lands.

The number of leases other than perpetual increased from 296,826 in 1901 to 311,041, or by 4·8 per cent. The increase is generally ascribable to settlements and resettlements of waste and other lands. In Dacca an increase in the number of sub-leases for terms of years, known as *Agra kara pottahs*, has been noticed. In the case of these *pottahs* the total amount of rent payable during the term of the lease is received in advance. In Mymensingh a considerable increase (17·1 per cent.) is explained by the classification of *zar-i-peshgi* leases under head "Leases for a term of years" instead of under "Mortgages," as was formerly the practice. A large number of such leases was registered owing to the partial failure of crops (*aus* and jute). A decrease (19·7 per cent.) in the number of such leases in Hazaribagh is attributed to the outbreak of plague in Chatra.

The large increase (50·4 per cent.) in the number of such leases in Bhagalpur is ascribed to the survey and settlement operations in the north of the district and to the prospect of similar operations in the south. Part of the increase is no doubt also due to the registrations in the temporary offices at Gamharia and Manganj, which were kept open for a part of the year to register *kabuliyats* executed by the tenants of two zamindars in North Bhagalpur.

The number of term-leases fell off by nearly half in the Sonthal Parganas, and the Registrar has stated in explanation that in the previous year (1901) new settlements of *char* lands had been made by certain zamindars in the sub-division of Rajmahal, and that in Deoghar the local authorities did not allow transfers of *raiyati* lands.

The increase in Darbhanga (35·2 per cent) was considerable. It is said to be due to new settlement of lands and to the execution of several *kabuliyats* at rates of rent higher than those attested during the last settlement operations, which, as stated under Chapter II, "Revenue and Rent-paying classes," were subsequently cancelled.

The number of money-bonds decreased from 121,743 in 1901 to 114,713 in 1902, *i.e.*, by 5·7 per cent. The decrease in Manbhum (23·7 per cent.) and the 24-Parganas (22·2 per cent.) is ascribed to the better condition of the people. In Midnapore the decrease (16·9 per cent.) is attributed to the disinclination of money-lenders to lend money on simple bonds owing to the poor crops of the last four years. In Balasore the decrease (24·6 per cent.) is explained by the relief afforded to the poorer classes by *taccavi* loans.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

177. At the end of the year 1902-1903 there were in existence 407 companies with a nominal capital of Rs. 21,76,15,034 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 17,01,69,458 against 413 companies with a nominal capital of Rs. 21,26,52,534

and a paid-up capital of Rs. 16,32,69,377 existing at the end of the preceding year. During the year 25 companies ceased to work, and 19 companies were registered; 79 companies increased their nominal capital, by a total of Rs. 30,78,000. The number of companies limited by guarantee working at the close of the year was the same as at the end of 1901-1902. Four societies were registered under Act XXI of 1860. The fees realised during the year amounted to Rs. 10,749-14, and expenditure to Rs. 931.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

178. Act I (B.C.) of 1876 for the voluntary registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces was in force in 31 districts against 30 in the previous year. The number of offices open rose from 258 to 267, and the number of ceremonies registered from 28,513 to 29,229. The receipts on account of fees and gratuities of the Registrars amounted to Rs. 48,881, against Rs. 47,365 in 1901-1902.

Working of the Brahmo Marriage Act III of 1872.

179. There were 41 marriages registered under the Act during the year under review, against 34 in the previous year; 24 marriages were registered in Calcutta, 6 in Dacca, 2 each in Bankura and Faridpur, and 1 each in Cuttack, Barisal, Pabna, Chittagong, Patna, Mymensingh and Midnapore.

180. There were 54 Marriage Registrars under the Act, besides 29 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars. Of these only 13 Marriage Registrars and 4 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars registered marriages during the year. The ages of the bridegrooms ranged from 18 to 52 and those of brides from 14 to 35 years. Five widows, whose ages ranged from 14 to 35 years, were married, 2 of them being married to widowers.

Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[The Divisional Commissioners' Reports on the working of Municipalities in Bengal (except Calcutta) for 1902 1903; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVII].

Number of Municipalities and Rate-payers.

181. The number of Municipalities in Bengal on the 31st March 1902 was 157. Two new Municipalities were formed during the period under review—one at Dumka, the head-quarters of the Sonthal Parganas district, and the other at Nawabganj, in the district of Malda. As, however, the new Municipalities were formed towards the close of the year, the statistics of the 157 Municipalities which were in existence throughout the year are only dealt with here. The rate-payers in the 157 Municipal towns numbered 485,617, or 17·08 of the municipal population. The percentage of rate-payers to population varied, as in the previous year, from 18·7 in the Presidency to 14·4 in the Dacca Division.

Elections, etc.

182. General elections of Commissioners took place in 46 Municipalities. In nearly every case the elections were successful, the contests being most general in the Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions. The percentage of attendance of voters at the contested elections was highest at Dinajpur, where 83 per cent. of the electors were present. The variations in the composition of the Municipal Committees were slight and call for no remarks. There were in all 2,620 meetings held during the year against 2,541 returned for the previous year, and of those only 227, or 8·6 per cent., had to be adjourned. Twenty-nine Municipalities held more than 20 meetings during the year; whilst 15, as against 21 in the previous year, failed to hold at least one meeting every month as required by the law. The average percentage of attendance of Municipal Commissioners throughout the Province was 51·62.

Assessment and taxation.

183. The rate on holdings was assessed at less than the maximum rate allowed by the law in 13 towns, among which were the Municipalities of Howrah, Hooghly and Chinsura, Darjeeling and Patna; the lowest rate was 6 per cent., and this was levied at Sahebganj, where, however, it had been only 5 per cent., in the previous year. Of the special rates the latrine rate was levied in 104 towns, the water-rate in 10 towns and the lighting rate in 2 towns, viz., Howrah and Darjeeling. A revision of assessment, general or partial, came into force in several Municipalities, the best financial results being attained in Howrah and Gaya with increases of Rs. 44,261 and Rs. 16,631 respectively.

The general question of improving the procedure under which assessments are conducted has lately engaged the attention of the Government, and the outlines of a scheme have been formulated upon which the opinions of local officers and of Municipal Commissioners have been invited. The chief proposal is that a trained staff of permanent assessors should be formed in the Province, to be paid for by *pro rata* contributions from each Municipality, and that they should deal in rotation with all the Municipalities included in the scheme. It is also suggested that the Appellate Committee should be limited to five, including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and that the other three members should not sit when appeals from their own wards are under consideration, their places being filled by other Commissioners on these occasions. Bad assessments are responsible for many of the complaints that are brought against Municipal administration, and it is hoped that the procedure suggested will effect an improvement in this respect. The motive of the Government in launching this scheme is not so much the raising of additional taxation as the equalising of the burden, so that the well-to-do shall bear their fair share instead of shifting it—as is sometimes the case—on to the shoulders of their poorer fellow townsmen.

Demands, collections and outstandings.

184. The current demand amounted to Rs. 34,36,766 as compared with Rs. 32,79,297 in 1901-1902. The outstanding balance at the commencement of the year was Rs. 3,59,248. The total collections amounted to Rs. 32,94,421, against Rs. 32,39,390 in the previous year, and the outstanding balance at the close of the year was reduced to Rs. 3,41,578, or 9·9 per cent. of the current demand. There were 23 Municipalities in which practically the whole demand was collected. The highest standard in financial improvements was attained in the Dacca Division, where the percentage of total collections on current demand was highest, while the percentage of outstandings on current demand was lowest, and the percentage of remissions (1·6) small. In Howrah the outstanding balance was reduced to Rs. 91,322.

The total funds available for expenditure in the whole Province were Rs. 55,83,623, against Rs. 51,62,352 in the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 47,53,072, against Rs. 45.56,164 in 1901-1902.

Closing balances of Municipalities.

185. The aggregate closing balances of the Municipalities stood at Rs. 8,30,551 against Rs. 6,06,188 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 2,24,363 was due mainly to the inability of the Howrah Municipality to utilise during the year the large amount of loan funds received from Government (Rs. 1,93,000), so that the closing balance of the Municipality stood at Rs. 2,14,308, against Rs. 14,386 in 1901-1902.

INCOME.

Income of Municipalities.

186. The incomes of all the Municipalities taken together amounted to a little over 49½ lakhs. This represented an increase of nearly 4 lakhs over the figure of the preceding year, but practically the whole difference was accounted for by receipts from loans, sale proceeds of Government securities, &c., advances and deposits. There was, however, an increase of nearly half a lakh from taxes, although this was more than counterbalanced by decreases under the heads of "Ferries" and "Miscellaneous." This increase was shared by the Municipalities, taken as a whole, in the five Divisions of Burdwan, the Presidency, Chittagong, Patna and Chota Nagpur, while in the other Divisional groups there was a decline.

The tax on houses and lands yielded a revenue of Rs. 11,99,898, which was larger by Rs. 3,344 than that of the previous year. This rate was levied at Chandpur for the first time and yielded Rs. 7,385 as compared with Rs. 3,805 collected in 1901-1902 from the tax on persons. The income of Rs. 2,48,873 from taxes on animals and vehicles showed an increase of Rs. 6,434, while the aggregate revenue from taxes on professions and trades (Rs. 57,025) shows a small falling off of Rs. 336. There was a slight increase in the Burdwan, Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions, while elsewhere there was a decline. Twenty-four Municipalities derived no income from this source. No tolls are levied on roads in Bengal, but 48 Municipalities derived from ferry tolls a total income of Rs. 1,35,460. The revenue under this head shows a decline of Rs. 16,352, which was shared by all the Divisions except those of the Presidency, Burdwan and Chota Nagpur, where there was a

small improvement. The water-rate, as in the previous year, was in force in 10 Municipalities. The income amounted to Rs. 2,59,348 and shows a small increase of Rs. 1,223. The largest increase, amounting to Rs. 4,700, occurred at Howrah. The total receipts from the lighting rate which, as already stated, accrued only in the Municipalities of Howrah and Darjeeling, amounted to Rs. 85,845 and resulted in a small net decline of Rs. 363. The income improved by Rs. 4,775 at Howrah owing mainly to the extension of the area lighted with gas; in Darjeeling it declined by Rs. 5,138, and the loss is explained to be due to the falling off of miscellaneous lighting-rate receipts.

The revenue under "Conservancy," including scavenging and latrine rates, which amounted to Rs. 7,75,743, shows an improvement of Rs. 30,587. Increases which occurred in several Municipalities are attributed to the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Act, or to the expansion of the areas under the operation of that Part, and to revision of assessment and raising of the rate at which the tax was levied.

Several Municipalities continued their efforts in the direction of making their trenching grounds a source of income; improved results are reported from some quarters, but no marked success was obtained.

The total revenue from tax on persons according to their circumstances and property within the Municipality amounted to Rs. 5,78,947 and shows a small improvement of Rs. 8,315.

The total receipts under grants from provincial and local funds and contributions by private individuals amounted to Rs. 3,24,583, showing an increase of Rs. 9,797. The contributions were—for medical purposes Rs. 2,21,074, for education Rs. 6,597, and for general purposes Rs. 96,912.

Liberality on the part of private individuals.

187. Of the various instances of private liberality reported, the following deserve special mention. A contribution of Rs. 10,000 was made by Babu Chhogmull Sukhani of Darjeeling towards the construction of a new building for the Charitable Dispensary, which has been styled the "Victoria Memorial Hospital," and which has been opened by the Lieutenant-Governor since the close of the year. Babu Harendra Lal Rai Choudhuri of Bhagyakul in the Dacca district contributed Rs. 24,000 for the construction of an out-door dispensary attached to the Mitford Hospital at Dacca; and Syed Asgar Hossain Khan *alias* Khursed Nawab gave Rs. 10,000 towards the construction of the new hospital building at Patna.

EXPENDITURE.

188. The total expenditure in the Municipalities of the province (exclusive of Calcutta) amounted during the year to Rs. 47,53,072, against Rs. 45,56,164 in 1901-1902, the result being an increase of Rs. 1,96,908. The percentages which the expenditure under each of the principal heads bore to the total outlay (apart from debt and suspense heads) varied little from those of previous years. Establishment charges slightly increased, and the percentage of expenditure on Conservancy fell from 31·3 to 30·8, while that on Public Works rose from 16·5 to 18·2.

The above-mentioned increase of nearly 2 lakhs over the figure of the preceding year was attributable mainly to the larger expenditure incurred on water-supply (Rs. 1,13,717), buildings (Rs. 59,802), roads (Rs. 23,284), hospitals and dispensaries (Rs. 20,472) and police (Rs. 14,692). "Investments" and "deposits" also account for a rise of Rs. 40,925 and Rs. 73,002 respectively, or a total increase of Rs. 1,13,927.

On the other hand, there was a falling off under the heads of "Conservancy (including road cleaning and watering)" and "Miscellaneous" of Rs. 11,441 and Rs. 99,239 respectively. The items "Repayment of loans" and "Advances" also show an aggregate decline of Rs. 37,362.

Office and Collection Establishment.

189. Expenditure under this head, which rose during the year from Rs. 4,05,552 to Rs. 4,17,134, shows the usual tendency to increase. In some cases the growth is due to the payment of incremental salaries, in others to the entertainment of a larger staff or of a paid assessor, or to the increase of the charges on account of audit and banking. The expenditure on this account varies from 11·5 per cent. of the total expenditure in Chota Nagpur to 5·6 per cent. in Orissa.

190. The expenditure under "Prevention of Fire" rose from Rs. 22,791 to Rs. 27,353. As in the previous years the bulk of the expenditure was incurred in the Municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 15,590) and Howrah (Rs. 5,459) and in the other Municipalities adjoining Calcutta which contribute to the cost of the Metropolitan Fire-Brigade. Prevention of fire.

191. The total expenditure under "Street Lighting," which amounted to Rs. 2,39,449, shows a decline of Rs. 5,367, which is more than accounted for by the decreased charges of Rs. 10,142 at Howrah and Rs. 4,565 at Darjeeling. The decrease at Howrah was nominal, being mainly due to the non-presentation by the Gas Company of bills for payment. Darjeeling incurred a smaller expenditure on the purchase of stores during the year. A proposal has been made at Howrah to erect a Kitson lamp of 1,000 candle power in one of the busiest parts of the town in order to guide the traffic at night. Street Lighting.

192. The expenditure under "Water-Supply" rose from Rs. 2,49,351 to Rs. 3,63,068. The difference was wholly accounted for under "Capital outlay" the maintenance charges having declined by Rs. 13,689. The increase in capital expenditure was largest in the Municipalities of Darjeeling (Rs. 79,752) and Garden Reach (Rs. 36,762). The progress of the new water-supply scheme, which has not yet been completed, accounts for the heavy outlay at Darjeeling. The heavy expenditure at Garden Reach was incurred in the extension of the filtered water-supply from the Calcutta mains; 54 hydrants were erected and about 50,000 gallons of pure water are now supplied daily within the Municipality. Water-supply.

A project for improving their water-supply by the construction of a weir across the river Gandheswary at Bankura engaged the attention of the Municipal Commissioners of that town and expert opinion was called for. At Maniktala a large scheme for the extension of the filtered water-supply has received the sanction of Government, and the Commissioners have borrowed a lakh of rupees from Government in order to carry out the project.

A reference was made in last year's report to a proposal to supply water to certain Municipalities from the mills situated within their limits. By a mutual arrangement the mills supply the water and the Municipalities the pipes and hydrants, and the work has already made excellent progress. The Titagarh project has been sanctioned by Government and a loan of Rs. 13,000 has been granted for the purpose of carrying it out. The scheme for Bhatpara has been passed by the Commissioners; and a similar scheme for Garulia, with an application for a loan of Rs. 5,000 to meet the cost of laying the mains and hydrants, has recently received the sanction of Government.

At Berhampore the water-works fell into difficulties during the year. The buildings suffered severely from the sinking of the site, and the river at the same time receded, causing a small *chur* to form in front of the engine-house. These incidents necessitated a heavy expenditure in the purchase of extra machinery and in the repair of the buildings, in aid of which Government has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 5,000 and a loan of Rs. 10,000.

193. The total expenditure on drainage, which amounted to Rs. 1,71,367, shows a small decrease of Rs. 784 on that of the previous year. Maintenance charges declined by Rs. 11,001, while capital expenditure rose by Rs. 10,217. The increase in the latter item occurred mainly in the Municipalities of Howrah (Rs. 3,736), Dinajpur (Rs. 5,059) and Monghyr (Rs. 9,959), while the decrease was largest at Krishnagar (Rs. 8,659) and Patna (Rs. 8,235) The increased charges at Dinajpur and Monghyr were due to the construction of large masonry drains. At Krishnagar the decline was due to the fact that a costly scheme had been completed in 1901-1902, and a similar cause operated at Patna, where the payment of outstanding bills connected with the execution of the scheme for the flushing of the drains had considerably swelled the charges of the previous year. Systematic steps are being taken under the direct control of the Magistrate for the preparation of suitable schemes for the improvement of the drainage of the Municipalities in the Nadia district. Large schemes of drainage are under consideration or in course of preparation in the Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktala, Baranagar, Garden Reach, Bhatpara, Budge-Budge and Titagar Municipalities, and smaller schemes are similarly under consideration in several other Municipalities in the district of the 24-Parganas. A scheme for the improvement of the drainage of the unhealthiest portion of the Berhampore Drainage.

Municipality, estimated to cost Rs. 30,000, to be met from the Government Estates Improvement Fund, is at present under consideration. The town of Dacca is being surveyed as a preliminary to the preparation of a complete drainage scheme. It is reported that the drainage of the town of Gaya is gradually being improved by means of an annual subsidy of Rs. 3,000 from the Lodging-house Fund, but there is as yet no regular and complete scheme for the town. A comprehensive scheme was prepared by the Commissioners of the Howrah Municipality for the improvement of the drainage of a portion of the town, and the Commissioners obtained a loan of Rs. 75,000 from Government for carrying it out. Four Municipalities incurred no expenditure under this head, viz., those of Ghatal, Dinapore, Hajipur and Raghunathpur.

Conservancy.

194. The expenditure under "Conservancy" fell from Rs. 12,68,329 to Rs. 12,56,888. The decline was shared by the Municipalities as a whole in the Burdwan, Patna and Orissa Divisions and was largest in the two first named, where it amounted to Rs. 14,750 and Rs. 17,449 respectively. Elsewhere the charges increased, the improvement being most marked in the Presidency, Chittagong and Bhagalpur Divisions. It is noticeable that the expenditure on Conservancy exceeded 50 per cent. of the total expenditure in five towns, viz., Asansol (50·54), Hooghly-Chinsura (50·83), Bhadreswar (54·08), Baranagar (50·2) and Noakhali (59·2).

The large decline of Rs. 12,288 at Howrah, where the construction of bacteriological filters and the purchase of sullage carts had raised the expenditure in the previous year, was mainly responsible for the decline in the Burdwan Division. A decrease of Rs. 17,585 occurred in the Patna Municipality owing to the diminution of charges incurred in sanitary precautions against plague, to which is mainly attributable the decline in the Patna Division.

The Muzaffarpur Municipality obtained the sanction of Government to the construction of a septic tank for the disposal of sewage, the funds for the purpose being provided by means of a loan from Government. The Commissioner has, however, made no mention of the progress of the scheme. Similar projects for the construction of septic tanks on the principles which have proved successful in several large mills are being formulated by the Garden Reach and Cossipore-Chitpur Municipalities in consultation with the Sanitary Engineer. Among other new schemes one of the most important is the improvement of an insanitary bustee of mill coolies at Bhatpara which was undertaken during the year and is now nearing completion. Five straight roads have been driven through a tract which was formerly a fœtid congeries of hollows, huts and cess-pits. The area has been drained and supplied with water, the roads have been metalled and the unwholesome tanks have been filled with coal ashes; at the same time regular lines of spacious and well ventilated huts have been laid out along the roads. The immediate result of these improvements has been that, for the first time for many years, the inhabitants enjoyed complete immunity from cholera in the past year. The Commissioners of the Cossipore-Chitpur, Garulia and Titaghar Municipalities are taking similar action in respect of certain bustees in those Municipalities, and it is reported that the bustee taken up in the first-named Municipality is already beginning to wear a different aspect.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

195. The expenditure under "Hospitals and Dispensaries" rose from Rs. 4,48,847 to Rs. 4,69,319. The increase in this item of expenditure was largest in the Rajshahi Division, where it amounted to Rs. 24,909; while on the other hand the greatest decreases occurred in the Presidency Division (Rs. 12,810) and in the Patna Division (Rs. 12,400). In the Rajshahi Division the enhancement was mainly due to the construction of new dispensary buildings at Rampur Boalia, Jalpaiguri and Sirajganj. In the Presidency Division the decline is attributed principally to the discontinuance of contributions towards the cost of general preventive measures against plague. In the Patna Division the Municipalities of Patna and Gaya are chiefly responsible for the diminution. In the former Municipality the falling off was largely due to the non-payment of certain outstanding bills and to the separation of charges for the veterinary dispensary. Moreover, the Commissioners found it necessary, having regard to the growing demands of the Bankipore Hospital, for which a fine building has been erected at a total cost of Rs. 99,388, to effect

certain economies in the matter of the admission of in-patients. At Gaya the reduction of plague charges during the year, and the fact that certain works of improvement have been completed in the previous year, were responsible for the diminished expenditure. Six Municipalities spent no part of their income on hospitals and dispensaries.

Vaccination.

196. The total expenditure under "Vaccination" was Rs. 21,548, against Rs. 21,523 in the previous year. At Darjeeling the vaccinator performed as many as 2,750 operations, and at Rampur Boalia and Bhagalpur the outturn of each operator exceeded 1,400. The Magistrate of the 24-Parganas reports that special attention is being paid to the requirements of Municipalities in which mill operatives congregate.

Public Works.

197. The expenditure under "Public Works" rose from Rs. 6,69,533 to Rs. 7,45,848, or by Rs. 76,315. The increase occurred under the sub-heads of "Buildings" (Rs. 59,802) and "Roads" (Rs. 23,284), whilst there was a decline under "Establishment" and "Stores."

Public Instruction.

198. The expenditure under "Public Instruction" amounted to Rs. 1,37,407, or Rs. 5,067 in excess of that of the previous year. The expenditure on primary education rose from Rs. 67,090 to Rs. 74,015, an amount which represents 2·7 per cent. of the aggregate ordinary income of Municipalities, and which still falls short of the standard of 3·2 per cent. prescribed by Government. However, it is evident from the Commissioners' reports that proper attention is being paid to the necessity for making suitable provision for primary education as funds permit. The practice of having the sanctioned municipal grants for primary education distributed according to the instructions of the Deputy Inspector of Schools continues, and this has suppressed to a great extent irregularities in the matter of distribution.

Loans.

199. Nine Municipalities obtained loans from Government aggregating Rs. 3,60,600. The most important of the advances made were Howrah (Rs. 1,93,000), Maniktala (Rs. 75,000, being the first instalment of a loan of one lakh), Garden Reach (Rs. 45,000), Berhampore (Rs. 15,600), Nasirabad (Rs. 12,500), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 10,000). The majority of the loans were taken for projects for the improvement of water-supply and drainage. There was no instance of default in repayment, whether of principal or interest, and there is no occasion to question the solvency of any of the Municipalities which are thus in debt to Government.

Audit of accounts and embezzlements.

200. A smaller number of cases of embezzlements was brought to notice during the year than in 1901-1902. The largest defalcation reported was one that occurred at Bhagalpur, where a tahsildar embezzled a sum of Rs. 1,492. At Sirajganj a defalcation occurred in which the whole office staff are said to have been implicated. Minor cases are reported from Howrah, Patuakhali, Sasaram and Chapra.

Working of the Porters and Dandiwallas Act, 1883.

201. Bengal Act V of 1883 for the control of Porters and *Dandiwallas* was in force only in the Municipality of Darjeeling. The total number of porters and *dandiwallas* registered during the year was 858, against 843 in the previous year, and the total cost of working the Act was Rs. 272, against Rs. 379 in 1901-1902. There were 14 prosecutions under the Act, against 12 in 1901-1902, and the amount of fines realized was Rs. 32. No occasion arose for the cancellation of licenses during the year.

General.

202. The opinions expressed by Divisional Commissioners on the working of the Municipalities of the Province are on the whole commendatory, though inadequate assessments, careless supervision, and indifferent collections are noticed in several quarters. These opinions were strongly endorsed by the Lieutenant-Governor in the Resolution on the working of Mufassal Municipalities during the year.

Municipal Administration at Puri.

203. One of the chief among the problems of Municipal administration which occupied the attention of Government during the year under review is that of the special requirements of the town of Puri. The Municipality itself is a comparatively small one, with a resident population of some 31,000 souls, which, however, at certain periods of the year, is doubled, trebled and even quadrupled by the inrush of pilgrims to the shrine of Jagannath. It is this constant fluctuating population that renders the Municipal administration of the town one of grave and ever-increasing difficulty, and adds enormously to the task of providing and enforcing proper means of sanitation.

Towards the close of the year the Lieutenant-Governor visited the town, and discussed with the local officers the methods by which improvements could best be effected. The problem falls naturally into two divisions, the one being the question of ordinary Municipal management, and the other that of the special arrangements required to provide for the periodical visit of enormous numbers of pilgrims. To solve the first portion of the problem a programme of municipal reform was outlined, comprising the purification of the sources of water-supply, and the improvement of latrines and drainage; to meet the second difficulty the heads of a separate programme were indicated, which was directed mainly to the object of securing sanitary and inexpensive accommodation for pilgrims, improved water-supply, and proper arrangements for the treatment of the sick. For the financing of the latter portion of the scheme, a special source exists in the Puri Lodging-house Fund, but the supervision of the arrangements is a task which devolves upon the Municipal Commissioners and largely increases their burdens and responsibilities. The two aspects of the question are intricately connected. Any failure in the matter of the ordinary Municipal administration of the town cannot fail to react upon the utility of the arrangements made to provide for its fluctuating population, and the converse is equally inevitable.

Municipal Administration in Howrah.

204. Some special remarks are also called for regarding Howrah, both because of its metropolitan character and its close association with Calcutta, and because next to Calcutta it is the largest Municipality in the Province. The head-quarters of one of the largest railway systems and the home of many important industries, the administration of Howrah is, on a smaller scale, almost as difficult and arduous a task as that of its larger neighbour, Calcutta. In the year under review, its Municipal Commissioners were the trustees of a current income falling little short of 8 lakhs of rupees, nearly four times greater than that of any other individual mufassal Municipality, and they incurred a total expenditure, including loan transactions, of all but 6 lakhs. The water-works of Howrah are the largest in the Province outside Calcutta; its drainage system, existing or projected, is the most complete; it is the possessor of a conservancy tramway, and a scheme is now under consideration, which may soon prove an accomplished fact, for the introduction of electric tram cars with the ultimate objective of the eventual linking of the tramway system with that of Calcutta. The Municipal well-being of Howrah is closely connected with that of Calcutta, and its Commissioners have wisely provided for the development of the town on the most approved modern principles. During the whole of the year under report the question of extending to Howrah the Calcutta building regulations was under discussion, and since the close of the year their extension has been finally sanctioned by Government. The measure is one that should have a most salutary effect on the future expansion of the town, and should obviate the growth of the evil of overcrowding which presents so serious a problem in the neighbouring metropolis. A great improvement in the financial administration of this Municipality has rendered it possible for the Commissioners to carry out large schemes of sanitary improvement. A project for the improvement of the drainage of Wards VIII and IX was commenced during the year, and a loan was granted by Government for the purpose. Large loans were taken for the improvement of the water-works by the extension of the engine-house at Serampore and the purchase of a new engine and pumping plant, and smaller loans were also obtained for the improvement of the Municipal market, for the extension of the conservancy railway, and for the acquisition of a night-soil depôt.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

[The Administration Report of the Calcutta Municipality for 1902-1903; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVII.]

General.

205. Much useful work was accomplished during the year. The difficulties which surrounded the Suburban Drainage Scheme were overcome, the claims of the various Contractors in connection with the so-called Invalid Contracts were settled and paid, the various projects comprising the scheme have received the sanction of the Government and work is in progress at several points under eight separate contracts. This is a matter for special gratification, as the

cessation of operations involved, amongst other things, the postponement of the completion of the sewer system throughout the ill-drained tracts of the southern suburbs. In the matter of the introduction of the system for the continuous supply of filtered water, which has been estimated to cost 19 lakhs, the progress made has been unsatisfactory, for the continuous supply has been extended only to an area in the north of the city which has a population of 126,000 persons. The Corporation have, however, decided to materially strengthen the staff engaged in the work and to employ an expert from England. The District system, introduced in the previous year, has given satisfaction. An improvement is noticeable in the work of the reorganised departments, the excellent results achieved in the Collection Department calling for special mention: with the changes made in this Department, the need for coercive measures in the realisation of rates and taxes is decreasing. As a result of the reorganisation schemes the subordinate staff have been placed systematically in definite grades on incremental salaries, the pay offered being calculated as sufficient to attract and retain the services of competent men. A system also has been introduced whereby responsibility can be fixed on individuals and the work of indolent and active men can be readily distinguished. The state of the Municipal Market, Slaughter-house and Dhobikhana has much improved under the care of an able and energetic Sub-Committee. Considerable improvement may be expected in the working of the Conservancy Department on the completion of the two new Gowkhanas which are shortly to be erected, as on their completion each district will possess a separate Gowkhana with a supply of animals and carts. Useful experiments are being made with moorum and tar as blindage for roads, and with wood for the pavement of highways and pathways. A great improvement has been effected in the Commercial area by a large increase in the number of street lamps and in the pavement of the footpaths, the expense being largely met by the Government.

Meetings, Elections, etc.

206. There were 18 meetings of the Corporation and 51 of the General Committee during the year; as usual, a number of Special and Sub-Committees were appointed. The first General Election of Commissioners under the new Municipal Act took place in March 1903: candidates came forward in every Ward, but seats were contested in only two cases.

Finance.

207. The gross receipts of the Corporation from all sources for the year, inclusive of the opening balance, amounted to Rs. 91,11,231, and the total expenditure was Rs. 83,16,020, resulting in a balance on the 31st March 1903 of Rs. 7,95,211. The income of the year was less by Rs. 6,34,919 than in the previous year, chiefly the result of a decrease in the loans account of Rs. 5,96,600. The Municipal rates and taxes realised Rs. 51,72,778: a decrease of Rs. 1,03,737 is due principally to the fact that the receipts under this head in 1900-1901 and 1901-1902 were considerably inflated by the realisations of the heavy arrear demands, which passed into the hands of the Warrant Department at the beginning of the former year.

As compared with 1901-1902 the net expenditure shows a rise of Rs. 8,07,819, the chief items of increase being under "Public Health and Convenience" (Rs. 5,07,328) and "Miscellaneous" (Rs. 1,20,664). The capital expenditure of the year, excluding that on plague measures, amounted to Rs. 20,04,680: the chief items were "Public Works" (Rs. 5,63,691), "Water-supply, Extensions and Improvements" (Rs. 4,57,199) and "Drainage and Sewer Construction" (Rs. 4,50,805). The loan liability of the Corporation at the commencement of the year was Rs. 3,21,92,158: during the year a new loan of Rs. 15,00,000 was raised and a 4½ per cent. debenture loan of Rs. 6,50,500 was paid off. After meeting two half-yearly instalments due to Government, the total loan liability was at the end of the year Rs. 3,26,92,090.

Accounts Department.

208. The reorganisation of the Accounts Department was proceeded with during the year. The recommendations for reform made by Mr. W. F. Barrow, Examiner, Public Works Accounts, many of which had been introduced under his supervision during the year, were finally adopted by the Corporation after its close. The Corporation further decided to appoint a Chartered Accountant with experience of Municipal accounts to be the head of the Department, and steps were taken to secure the services of a thoroughly competent man.

Collection Department.

209. The Collection Department under the new re-organisation scheme has done excellent work. Out of a total gross current demand of Rs. 45,39,199, the unrealised balance in the Collector's hands at the close of the year amounted

to only ·89 per cent., as against 1·49 per cent., in the previous year. The percentage of collection on the net demand was 99·08, as against 98·46 in 1901-1902. Less than 2 per cent. of the collections were realised by recourse to coercive measures. The Warrant Department ceased to exist at the end of 1901-1902, and its place was taken by a Suit Department, which has been amalgamated with the Collection Department.

Assessor's Department.

210. The Assessor's Department was considerably strengthened on re-organisation. The result of the year's operations, exclusive of the large properties acquired by the Corporation during the year, shows a net increase of Rs. 6,84,169 in the assessed valuation of the town, which now stands at Rs. 2,40,40,704 as compared with Rs. 1,87,55,968 ten years ago, and Rs. 1,32,91,254 in 1883.

License Department.

211. The collections of the License Department were unsatisfactory, the percentage on the principal items, Trades and Professions, being only a little over 82 per cent. on the current demand. A scheme for the re-organisation of the Department has, since the close of the year, been approved by the Corporation.

Building Department.

212. An important change was made by the appointment of an Architect and Building Surveyor from England to have charge of this Department. The Building Regulations were enforced with greater strictness during the year.

New Municipal offices. Miscellaneous improvements.

213. Good progress was made with the construction of the new Municipal Office building, which is to be erected on the site of the existing building in Municipal Office street at a cost of over six lakhs. The area round the new offices has been considerably opened out and improved, and when all the improvements contemplated are carried out, the result will be a complete transformation of the locality. Two new District offices for Districts I and IV are being erected, the new central office will provide the necessary accommodation for District No. III, and it only remains to provide a suitable building for District No. II.

During the year a larger number of roads were repaired than usual, and with the financial aid of Government very extensive improvements have been carried out in the commercial quarter of the town. In District No. IV, the Corporation have in hand schemes more or less advanced for the construction of roads, sixty feet wide, at a cost of 21 lakhs. Both in the north and the south the Corporation contemplate the acquisition and preparation of land for the formation of new suburbs. The Bustee Department continued its policy of improving or demolishing insanitary bustees, the amount paid as compensation for the demolitions made being Rs. 28,906. The Goomghur bustee, at the back of the Chandney Bazar, has been acquired at a cost of Rs. 1,75,000, in order to open out a highly congested area and to provide model dwellings along a wide thoroughfare. The negotiations with Government in regard to the large plot of land in Kasieabagan have been brought to a successful conclusion, and 25 bighas of land between Lower Circular Road and Elgin Road have been handed over to the Corporation for the purposes of a public park. A Special Sub-Committee dealt with public squares during the year and introduced many beneficial measures. Several new squares were opened, and others will be shortly.

A large area of land, measuring about 200 bighas, has been acquired, near the Jadabpur police thana, for a new city cemetery, and the ground is being cleared and prepared. Ten bighas of land were added to the Christian cemetery in the Lower Circular Road. The new Muhammadan burial-ground at Gobra has been brought into use, and supplies a great public want. Several Muhammadan burial-grounds were closed during the year on sanitary grounds.

Extensive alterations and improvements were carried out in the Hogg Market during the year at a cost of Rs. 90,000, and further extensions are in contemplation. An increased revenue of Rs. 42,000 a year is expected from the additional accommodation provided. The new market in Lansdowne Road erected at a cost of (roughly) Rs. 50,000 is approaching completion.

The new *Dhobikhana* in Upper Circular Road has been completed and is now in use.

The expenditure incurred on the more important improvement works carried out, or in progress, during the year, was roughly—in District No. I, 2¼ lakhs, in District No. II, 2 lakhs, in District No. III, 6¼ lakhs, and in District No. IV, 3 lakhs.

214. The progress made with the Suburban Drainage Scheme has been described under "General." The total quantity of filtered water supplied from the main works at Pulta during the year was 7,542,012,530 gallons, a slight increase upon the previous year, the average daily consumption per head of the population being reported as 24·23 gallons. During the year 2,304 feet of pipes were added to the system, bringing the total mileage of filtered water mains and services to 317·34 miles. Suburban Drainage and water-supply.

The total quantity of unfiltered water pumped through the mains was 5,659,865,427 gallons, the average daily consumption per head of the population being shown as 19·24 gallons. Over 14 miles of mains were laid down during the year, bringing the total mileage to 172·24 miles. The total expenditure debitable to the Water-works Fund during the year amounted to Rs. 14,97,195 and the receipts from the sale of water to Rs. 1,70,167. As stated under "General," progress in the introduction of the system for the continuous supply of filtered water has been unsatisfactory.

215. The death-rate of the town during the year was 37 per mille, the result in a large measure of the recurring epidemic of plague in the first half of the year, an account of which is given under "Plague" in Chapter VI; cholera accounted for a larger number of deaths than usual, and 10 per cent. of the total mortality is attributed to tuberculosis. Vaccination work generally was unsatisfactory : a Special Committee of medical men has been appointed to consider measures for its improvement. A new Vaccine Depôt at Ballyganj is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 27,312, exclusive of the value of the land, the acquisition of which cost Rs. 8,815, and new vaccination stations and registration offices are about to be constructed in Wellesley Street and Elliot Road. Public health.

216. The *gowkhana* staff was strengthened during the year, and additional carts and animals provided. Two new *gowkhanas* are under construction in Districts I and IV, and when these are completed, each District will have its own supply of animals and carts, and more efficient provision for the better cleansing of the streets will be possible. The new Incinerator at Entally is rapidly approaching completion, the total expenditure on this undertaking being over 2¼ lakhs. Conservancy.

217. The Coronation festivities were celebrated in Calcutta at the end of January 1903, the Corporation contributing Rs. 15,000 towards the expenses in connection therewith. The poor were fed on the maidan, and given a small present of money. The town was illuminated, and there was a display of fireworks. A resurvey of the added area has been undertaken, and a special staff has been engaged for the purpose. The total cost of the work is estimated at Rs. 1,68,360, and it has been arranged that the Corporation will pay $\frac{5}{7}$ths and the Government $\frac{2}{7}$ths of this amount. A Provident Fund for employés of the Corporation was introduced with effect from 1st January 1902. Under the rules for its administration all future Corporation servants will be required to contribute to the fund. The conversion of the Tramways to electric traction was completed in November 1902. The lines have since been extended to Tollyganj, and other important extensions in the Suburban area are in contemplation. Miscellaneous.

Puri Lodging-house Act.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions for 1902-1903 on the working of the Puri Lodging-house Act in the various places to which it has been extended.]

218. The Puri Lodging-house Act (Bengal Act IV of 1871), as amended by Bengal Acts II of 1879 and I of 1884, was in force during the year under review in the same towns and areas as in the preceding year, with the exception of Ulubaria, in the Burdwan Division, from which the provisions of the Act were withdrawn towards the close of the year. The provisions of the Municipal Act have since been extended to this town. The Act worked satisfactorily in all places in which it was in force. Working of the Act.

219. There were 3,038 lodging-houses licensed, with accommodation for 72,426 lodgers, the numbers in the previous year having been 1,912 and 68,500, respectively. There are considerable fluctuations from year to year owing to particular occasions being more or less auspicious, or to special reasons, such as the occurrence of plague during the last two years at Deoghur; but apart from such variations there is also a steady progressive change attributable to the extension of the railway system, which is diverting to itself the pilgrim Licensed Lodging-houses.

traffic from the old routes with their recognised halting places, and, by the facilities it offers for easy and speedy travelling, yearly adding to the numbers of those who undertake such journeys.

The rapidity with which persons who have attended at the shrines can be conveyed to distant parts of the Province, and even to other Provinces, has made the sanitary condition of the places of pilgrimage a matter of more than merely local importance, while at the same time the difficulty of maintaining proper sanitation has been increased by the greater influx of pilgrims on special occasions. For this reason the arrangements at Puri for dealing with the pilgrim traffic and the sanitation of the town itself engaged the special attention of the Government during the year under review, as detailed under "Municipalities outside Calcutta".

Public Health.

220. The health of the places where the Act was in force appears to have been on the whole fair. In Orissa, how ever, there were 442 deaths from cholera, which broke out during the Car festival in spite of strict sanitary precautions. In Nadia also there were 92 cases of cholera, which is stated to have been imported by pilgrims from Puri. The occurrence of plague at Deoghur has already been referred to. Only nine deaths were, however, attributed to this cause.

Income and Expenditure.

221. The total income of the year under review was Rs. 94,437, against Rs. 63,106. The total expenditure was Rs. 60,041, against Rs. 57,415 in 1901-1902. The bulk of the increased income accrued in Puri and in the *chattis* on the Jagannath Road in Jajpur, and it is mainly due to the larger demand for accommodation on the occasion of the Car festival during the year under review. Compared with the receipts, the amount expended by the Puri Lodging-house Fund, especially on conservancy, was disappointingly small.

District Boards.

[Divisional Commissioners' Reports on the working of District Boards in Bengal for 1902-1903; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVIII.]

Number and Constitution of District and Local Boards.

222. There were 42 District Boards in existence during 1902-1903, as in the previous year; but the number of Local Boards decreased from 106 to 104 owing to the abolition of the Sadar Local Boards at Darbhanga and Gaya. The number of Union Committees increased from 56 to 57 in consequence of the establishment of a Union at Patkabari in the district of Murshidabad.

Of the members of the District and Local Boards, 37·7 per cent. were zamindars, talukdars and zamindars' servants; 24·4 per cent. were pleaders and mukhtears; 21·2 per cent. Government servants; 4·8 per cent. planters; 2·3 per cent. Government pensioners, and ·6 per cent. Missionaries, while 8·6 per cent. belonged to other professions.

Financial results.

223. The 42 District Boards in the Province began the year with an opening balance of Rs. 19,25,434 (corrected figures). Their income during the year amounted to Rs. 92,17,377 and the expenditure to Rs. 88,22,342. There was thus at the close of the year a credit balance of Rs. 23,20,469; but of this sum more than three lakhs consisted of deposits, which were not at the disposal of the Boards.

The following statements show the principal heads of income and expenditure of District Boards during the past two years:—

INCOME.

	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
	Rs.	Rs.
Provincial rates	42,19,181	43,80,832
Interest	40,940	40,760
Police (including Pounds)	4,81,306	4,86,815
Education	81,152	95,867
Medical	49,674	51,358
Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	8,825	11,322
Miscellaneous	2,09,776	2,13,785
Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation ...	16,607	18,105
Civil Works (including Ferries)	12,23,333	18,94,330
Contributions	5,65,188	5,91,691
Deposits and Advances	11,68,132	14,31,742
Total under above and all other heads ...	80,65,037	92,17,377

EXPENDITURE.

	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
	Rs.	Rs.
Administration	2,94,244	3,00,957
Police (Pounds)	24,969	24,152
Marine	9,886	9,838
Education	13,31,926	17,47,945
Medical	4,41,939	3,89,379
Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	36,136	39,327
Miscellaneous	53,809	57,804
Famine Relief	3,604	100
Civil Works	46,85,791	45,96,854
Contributions	2,24,853	71,398
Debt	11,05,666	14,77,263
Interest on Debt	33,078	30,907
Total under above and all other heads ...	83,11,738	88,22,342

INCOME.

224. It will be seen that there was an increase under nearly every item of income. Important fluctuations are noted below.

Provincial Rates.

A net increase of Rs. 1,61,651 in Provincial rates, which represents the proceeds of the road cess after deducting the cost of collection and revaluation, was shared by all the districts except Palamau.

Pounds.

225. There was an increase of 95 in the total number of pounds under the management of District Boards, and of Rs. 10,204 in their total income. The increase of income was shared by 23 districts, and is attributed to more favourable settlements and better collection of rents.

Civil Works.

226. An increase of Rs. 6,70,997 under "Civil works" was largest under the sub-head "Contributions," under which an assignment made by Government towards the improvement of communications in backward districts chiefly accounts for the larger income. The income from tolls on ferries also improved by Rs. 30,945, the increase being shared by 22 out of the 42 districts. The ferries were regularly inspected, and the irregularities which were brought to notice were duly enquired into and generally remedied.

Contributions.

227. An increase of Rs. 26,503 under "Contributions" is chiefly due to the special allotments made by Government for the improvement of primary education and for the employment of additional Sub-Inspectors.

EXPENDITURE.

Administration.

228. The cost of general administration increased by Rs. 6,713, and was mainly due to a larger expenditure on office establishments, due to the system of incremental salaries.

Education.

229. The expenditure under "Education" increased by Rs. 4,16,019, and it is satisfactory to note that this increase is shared by all the districts, with the exception of Midnapore only, where the decrease is said to be merely nominal and due to the fact that rewards were not paid before the 31st March 1903. The increase occurred chiefly under the head "Grants-in-aid," and is due mainly to the special grants made by Government for the improvement of primary education and for the appointment of additional Sub-Inspectors.

There was an increase of 59 in the number of Sub-Inspectors of Schools maintained by District Boards, and of 19 in the number of Inspecting Pandits. Of schools maintained by District Boards, the number of high schools and lower primary schools remained stationary, but the numbers of middle, upper primary, and industrial schools increased during the year. The numbers of pupils attending these schools show a corresponding increase, with the exception of those attending high schools and industrial schools. Of schools aided by District Boards, the number of all classes, with the exception only of high schools, increased. The number of pupils attending them also increased, except in the case of high and middle schools, which show a slight falling off. The number of girls attending the upper and lower primary schools maintained by District Boards increased by 37, while the aggregate of those attending schools aided by those bodies improved to the extent of 16,188. The District Boards continued to grant scholarships to female students in the various medical schools.

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The main features in the primary educational operations of District Boards during the year were the strengthening of the inspecting staff and the abolition of the system of payment to *patsala gurus* by results, and the introduction in its stead of a quarterly subsistence allowance, supplemented by a further allowance at the end of the year in consideration of attendance, efficiency and certain other tests. A very liberal grant was made by Government to the District Boards to enable them to introduce the new system, and to make an increased provision on account of the salaries of additional Inspecting Pandits, or Guru Instructors, and of additional Sub-Inspectors for the inspection of primary schools. It is too early now to pronounce an opinion on the merits of the system; but it is hoped that it will give greater stability and greater efficiency to the *patsalas* and enable the supervising staff to devote more time to the inspection of primary schools *in situ*.

Of the Technical schools at Burdwan, Midnapore, Pabna, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Backergunge, which are maintained by their respective District Boards, the condition of that at Midnapore is reported to be unsatisfactory, though no details are given. It has, however, recently been placed under the management of the Education Committee of the District Board. The Sericultural School at Rampur Boalia and the Elliott Artizan School at Tippera continued to be a charge upon their respective District Boards. The District Boards of Noakhali, Mymensingh, Backergunge, Malda and Cuttack provided by means of stipends for the training of students in the Sibpur Engineering College. The District Boards of Dacca, Faridpur, Backergunge, Noakhali, Gaya, Saran, Muzaffarpur and Cuttack sent up students with scholarships to the Veterinary College at Belgachia, and all the District Boards in the Patna Division, as well as the District Boards of Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Malda, sent students to the Bihar School of Engineering. Several other District Boards made contributions in aid of local educational institutions or aided technical students with scholarships or stipends.

Attempts were made by several District Boards during the year to popularise the use of the fly-shuttle; but in most of the districts the local weavers failed to take much interest in learning its use. The only districts in which any progress was made in the experiment are Chittagong and Manbhum.

Medical.

230. A decrease of Rs. 52,560 in the expenditure under "Medical" is chiefly noticeable under sub-head "Miscellaneous" and is largest in the Patna Division. It is there explained to be due to the fact that the measures adopted for checking the progress of plague in the districts of Patna and Saran were on a smaller scale than in the previous year, and to the fact that no special expenditure was incurred in that direction by the District Boards of Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga.

In addition to treating the public gratuitously at their dispensaries, local aid was given by the District Boards wherever cholera or other epidemics broke out. Contributions were made by 15 District Boards during the year towards the maintenance of the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli.

The total number of dispensaries maintained by District Boards increased by 11, and the expenditure incurred upon them by Rs. 23,541. The District Board of Backergunge, as usual, maintained the largest number of dispensaries—35 in all. There was, moreover, an increase of 16 in the total number of dispensaries aided by District Boards and of Rs. 2,856 in the contributions made to such institutions. The largest number of dispensaries (16) to which contributions were given were those aided by the District Board of Faridpur.

Sanitation.

231. The total outlay on sanitation decreased by Rs. 19,491, the largest decrease being in Gaya. It is there accounted for by the fact that the expenditure incurred in that district during 1902-1903 on sanitary precautions against the spread of plague was only Rs. 305, while in 1901-1902 it amounted to Rs. 13,706. Beyond the improvement of water-supply by constructing, repairing, and improving wells and disinfecting them, no important works of sanitation were undertaken by the several District Boards during the year, though the usual arrangements were made for the sanitation of fairs. In pursuance of the system inaugurated in 1900-1901 for the improvement of the sanitation of villages and rural towns, the Sadar and Dinapore Local Boards in the district of Patna cleansed 64 and 48 villages during the year, at a cost of Rs. 996 and Rs. 369, respectively. The scheme has been commended to the

notice of the Commissioners of Divisions, who have been requested to give it a fair trial by such Local Boards as they may select. It has been pointed out to them that the residents and proprietors of villages may properly be called upon to contribute in money or in labour to such works before they are undertaken by the Local Boards.

Veterinary.

232. The total expenditure under "Veterinary" shows a slight decline. Veterinary dispensaries were opened during the year at Bankura and Ranchi by their respective District Boards, and other District Boards continued to maintain the veterinary institutions already in existence. More Veterinary Assistants were employed during the year, and the results reported are on the whole satisfactory. Those at Midnapore and Mymensingh were deputed to undergo a course of training in treating rinderpest with serum. Cattle-disease broke out in Khulna, and it is reported that out of 1,419 cattle inoculated with anti-rinderpest serum, only 2 died. There was also an outbreak of rinderpest among the municipal cattle at Muzaffarpur and in the Sitamarhi subdivision of the same district, and foot-and-mouth disease appeared in the villages in the interior, but the measures taken to suppress the disease have not been reported.

Civil Works.

233. The total outlay under "Civil Works" shows a net decrease of Rs. 88,937. Six sub-heads, viz., "Communications—Original Works," "Drainage—Original Works," "Other Works of Improvement," "Establishment and Contingencies," "Staging Bungalows and Serai Establishment and Charges," and "Tools and Plant" show an increased expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,07,228, while the other sub-heads, viz., "Buildings," "Communications—Repairs," "Water-supply and Water-works," "Drainage—Repairs," and "Miscellaneous" show a decreased expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,96,165. The largest decrease (Rs. 96,263) occurred in Rangpur, where it is said that less general repair works were undertaken in the year under report than in the previous year. The decrease was also very large in Darbhanga, where it amounted to Rs. 94,564; it is attributed to the default of local contractors in executing the works entrusted to them and to the failure of some Calcutta firms to supply the materials ordered. Details of the chief works executed by the several District Boards during the year are furnished in the Divisional reports. It appears that the most important and costly works were undertaken in some of the districts of the Dacca and Patna Divisions. In the Dacca Division the chief work taken in hand was the construction of a road from Backergunge to Patuakhali, on which Rs. 41,421 were spent during the year, and in the Patna Division the most important work undertaken was the metalling of the first six miles of the Aurangabad-Daudnagore Road in Gaya, on which Rs. 25,552 were spent up to 31st March 1903.

Water-supply.

234. The expenditure under water-supply and water-works decreased by Rs. 24,288. The largest decrease was in Backergunge, amounting to Rs. 8,395: it is ascribed to the inability of the Local Boards to spend the full allotments placed at their disposal owing chiefly to the difficulty in securing sites for wells. Excavation and re-excavation of tanks and wells and the improvement of the existing sources of water-supply were the chief works undertaken in this direction by the several District Boards during the year. The Raja of Kakina in Rangpur made a gift of Rs. 2,000 during the year for the improvement of the water-supply of the district. A difficulty which prevents some of the District Boards in the Presidency Division from expending the full amount of their allotments for the improvement of tanks, is that the zamindars who own them are unwilling either to excavate them themselves for the benefit of their tenants or to make them over to the Boards. The Boards are, however, taking steps to remove the scarcity of water felt in these tracts, and it is to be hoped that their efforts will meet with further success. Tube-wells have been introduced in the districts of Howrah, Dacca, and Purnea.

Drainage.

235. Small expenditure was incurred under "Drainage" by the District Boards of the 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Jessore, Tippera and Noakhali. The great work of draining the Chalan and Cherial *bils*, lying within the districts of Pabna and Rajshahi, is in progress, and it is reported that these projects will take longer to finish than was anticipated. Up to 31st March 1903, a sum of Rs. 13,056 was spent on the engineering, survey, and office establishment employed for the preparation of the survey of the first-named project.

Roads.

236. The total number of roads maintained by the several District Boards during the year increased from 8,666 to 9,429. There was also an increase of 1,585 miles in their aggregate length and of Rs. 1,42,531 in the total cost of their maintenance. Of these roads, 540, with a length of 2,748 miles, were metalled; and 2,508, with a length of 25,163 miles, unmetalled; while 6,381, with a total length of 18,141 miles, were classed as village roads. Many districts show remarkable fluctuations in the number and mileage of their metalled roads, but these variations are apparently attributable to reclassification in accordance with the instructions recently enjoined by Government. Of the total expenditure incurred on metalled roads, Rs. 2,82,739 were spent on original works and Rs. 7,41,980 on repairs; and of that incurred on unmetalled roads, the cost of original works was Rs. 10,47,862 and of repairs Rs. 9,24,180. The largest expenditure incurred in any one district during the year on metalled roads was incurred in the district of Burdwan, where it amounted to Rs. 85,765; the 24-Parganas stands second with an expenditure of Rs. 73,134; and Chittagong last with Rs. 60 only. The District Board of Palamau, as in the previous year, incurred no expenditure under this head. The outlay on unmetalled roads was highest in Muzaffarpur, viz., Rs. 1,28,547, and least in Balasore, viz., Rs. 7,788. The cost per mile of district metalled roads was highest in Manbhum (Rs. 2,337), where much money was spent on roads in the colliery tracts, and lowest in Chittagong (Rs. 29); that of unmetalled district roads was highest in Backergunge (Rs. 393), and lowest in Nadia (Rs. 15). On the construction and maintenance of 10 miles of village roads the District Board of Jalpaiguri expended Rs. 9,863. This exceptionally high rate per mile is, however, accounted for by the fact that practically the whole of this expenditure was incurred in bridging and raising a single expensive road. Elsewhere the cost per mile of roads of this class ranged from Rs. 113 in Backergunge to Rs. 3 in Rangpur.

It is worthy of note that the expenditure incurred on the construction and maintenance of roads in 1902-1903 was considerably above the average of the last five years, and that the cost per mile of metalled and unmetalled roads was Rs. 373 and Rs. 78, respectively, against an average for the previous three years of Rs. 317 and Rs. 73.

A further grant of Rs. 5,00,000 from Provincial Revenues to the several District Boards for the improvement of communications was made during the year.

Arboriculture.

237. In all districts, except Chittagong, arboriculture received attention from the District Boards, and money was spent in planting and maintaining trees on roadsides. Working plans for roadside arboricultural operations have been prepared in most of the districts for the guidance of their District Engineers.

Railway Feeder Roads.

238. New roads as feeders to railways were constructed by the District Boards of Burdwan, the 24-Parganas, Jalpaiguri, Rajshahi, Bogra, Tippera, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Puri. Existing feeder roads, and those taken in hand during the previous year, were maintained, improved, and completed by the District Boards named above, and also by the District Boards of Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore, Howrah, Khulna, Nadia, Dacca, Faridpur, Mymensingh, Noakhali, Chittagong, Patna, Gaya, Darbhanga, Shahabad, Purnea, Monghyr, Cuttack, Balasore, Palamau and Manbhum. The feeder road connecting Goborchapa with the Akkelpur Railway station in the district of Rajshahi, for which contributions amounting to Rs. 16,800 were made from Provincial revenues, was completed during the year. The feeder roads to railways in the district of Rangpur and the feeder road from Jamalganj Railway station to Etakholahat in the district of Bogra, for which also Government made special grants, were partly constructed during the year.

Railways and Tramways.

239. The extension of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway from Jagatballabhpur to Autpur was in progress during the year. A scheme for the construction of a light railway from Ullapara to Kolbunder, the steamer station below the town of Sirajganj, has been prepared by the District Board of Pabna and referred to Government for consideration. Negotiations for opening a steam tramway line from Dacca to Sealo opposite Goalundo are still in progress. A line from Tangail to Ballar *viâ* Mymensingh and Netrokona is being surveyed at the cost of the District Board of

Mymensingh. A project for a tramway from Barisal to Palardi, with an objective of ultimate extension to Faridpur *viâ* Madaripur, is under the consideration of the District Board of Backergunge. The Buktiarpur-Bihar Light Railway has been opened since the close of the year. In Shahabad the construction of a light narrow-gauge railway on the Arrah-Sasaram Road is being considered by the District Board. Three projects for narrow-gauge railways or tramways, as means of improving district communications, were contemplated by the District Board of Bhagalpur; but though a line from Bhagalpur to Deoghur *viâ* Bausi was selected as the most likely project, it is still wholly in embryo.

Contributions.

240. The expenditure under "Contributions" represents contributions made by District Boards towards the cost of the Police force employed at plague camps, refunds of the unexpended balance of Government grants for special works, payments on account of cost of establishments in the offices of account and control, and contributions made by District Boards to Union Committees. The total expenditure declined by Rs. 1,53,455, and though the fluctuation is large, it calls for no special remarks.

Deposits and Advances.

241. The large increase of Rs. 2,86,093 under "Deposits and advances" is chiefly due to the change in the classification of accounts introduced in the previous year, under which the expenditure on Provincial roads and Civil buildings, which was formerly shown under the head "Civil Works," is now debited to this head.

Closing balances.

242. The actual closing balance of the 42 District Boards during the year exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 3,20,955. It amounted to more than half of the year's income in Nadia and Darbhanga, and to more than one-third in Midnapore, Rajshahi, Faridpur and Shahabad.

Amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act.

243. The draft Bill to amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act was submitted to the Government of India for their consideration and orders in November 1902. The observations and suggestions of that Government on the Bill were communicated in August last, and the Bill, after further revision, has been submitted for the formal sanction of the Secretary of State to its introduction into Council.

Provident Fund Rules.

244. The attention of Government was drawn to the inconvenience of the existing procedure under which any case in which it was proposed to give a pension or gratuity to servants of District Boards, who were not provided for under the Provident Fund Rules, had to be referred to Government for special sanction. It was pointed out that such cases would probably become more numerous, and it was suggested that it might be desirable to adopt some rules with the object of providing for employés of this class, either on the lines of Government Pension and Gratuity Rules or on those of the existing Provident Fund Rules. The opinion of Commissioners of Divisions and of local bodies was invited on the subject. The opinions received showed that there was in many cases a feeling that provision should be made for pensions or gratuities to employés drawing less than Rs. 15 per mensem, who did not come within the scope of the original Provident Fund Rules, and after considering the replies, the suggestions which commended themselves to Government were that contributions to the Provident Fund should be made compulsory, on their admission to service, in the case of all employés drawing not less than Rs. 10 per mensem, while to inferior servants gratuities and pensions on the scale and conditions of Article 524 of the Civil Service Regulations should be allowed. A set of model rules based on these principles was framed for the guidance of local bodies, and they have already been adopted by several District Boards.

Administrative changes.

245. In connection with the rules laid down in 1899 for the carrying out of Imperial and Provincial Civil Works through the agency of District Boards, orders were issued during the year that when District Boards prepare estimates and plans and execute works on behalf of a Civil Department, they shall be paid the full amount of the percentage allowed by the rules on all estimates, irrespective of the individual amount of each.

Towards the close of the year the Government of India sanctioned a proposal of the Local Government that for the purposes of the adjustment of expenditure incurred on Imperial and Provincial Civil Works executed by District Boards, those bodies should be treated as Public Works disbursers, drawing their funds direct from the Examiner of Public Works on the usual

letters of credit and rendering their accounts direct to him for audit, the principle underlying the proposal being that as the expenditure on Imperial and Provincial Works is booked by the Public Works Department, it should be audited by that Department.

General. 246. The general consensus of opinion among the Commissioners of Divisions is that the majority of the District Boards have worked smoothly and satisfactorily, and that their members have shown a praiseworthy interest in the affairs entrusted to their charge. A satisfactory feature of the year's progress is the awakening of public interest in Local Self-Government in at least one of the districts of the Orissa Division, but the Commissioner remarks that in the other two the tendency still exists to leave all duties and responsibilities to the official Chairman. Local Boards receive fainter praise. The aggregate income of the Union Committees with their limited scope fell from Rs. 23,673 to Rs. 22,812 and their expenditure from Rs. 18,203 to Rs. 17,877.

Volunteering.

247. The volunteer corps in existence during the year were the same as in the previous year. Their total strength was 4,944 on the Active List and 92 Reserves.

Marine.

[The information contained in the Chapter below has been obtained partly from the correspondence with the officers and public bodies with whom the Marine Department is concerned, and partly from certain reports which are annually submitted to that Department. The reports consulted are as follows:—

Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, for the year 1902-1903.

Report on the working of the Shipping Office at Calcutta and at the Ports of Orissa and Chittagong for the year 1902-1903.

Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta for 1902.

Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, for the year 1902-1903.

Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge for the year 1902-1903.

Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, for the year 1902-1903.

Administration Report of the Orissa Ports for the year 1902-1903.

Report on the working of the Native Passenger Ships Act, 1887, in Bengal, for the year 1902-1903.]

THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Pilot service, and Receipts for pilotage. 248. At the close of the year, the number of Pilots on the list was 49, or 3 short of the sanctioned number. The number of vessels that arrived at the port during the year was 1,310, and of those that sailed from it 1,303. These figures represent a gross tonnage of 4,543,340 inwards and 4,514,004 outwards. The average tonnage of steam and sailing vessels, inwards and outwards, was 3,466; of the total number of vessels which visited the port, only 30 were sailing vessels. The pilotage receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 11,53,222.

Detentions. 249. Ten vessels were neaped for want of sufficient depth of water over the bars. The average detention was 3·4 days. It is also reported that many vessels left short of cargo to avoid detention. The number of vessels detained at the Sandheads for want of Pilots was 17, the average detention being for 18 hours and 33 minutes.

Casualties. 250. There were three collisions during the year, while the number of groundings was 18. In two cases of collision and in six of grounding the Pilots concerned were held to blame. Thirty-two preliminary enquiries into casualties to vessels were held by the Port Officer, of which six were referred to Special Courts of Enquiry. A further Special Court of Enquiry was held to enquire into the cause of an accident to a vessel while in charge of a Harbour Master. In nine cases the Pilots were held to blame, and they were suitably dealt with.

Examinations. 251. One hundred and twenty-six candidates appeared in the examinations for Colonial and Home Trade certificates of competency, of whom 73 passed. One hundred and thirty-one candidates also appeared at the different examinations for certificates of competency as Masters, Serangs, Engineers, and Engine-drivers, under Act VI of 1884. Of these, 54 passed.

CALCUTTA SHIPPING OFFICE.

Finance. 252. The receipts of the Shipping Office, Calcutta, amounted, during the year under review, to Rs. 71,668 and the expenditure aggregated Rs. 27,339.

The new Branch Shipping Office at Kidderpore will, it is hoped, be completed during the current year.

253. The number of the seamen shipped and discharged were:— Seamen shipped and discharged.

Shipped	...	...	...	36,724
Discharged	...	...	...	32,584

There was an increase of 134 in the number of seamen shipped under European Articles, while there was a decrease of 792 in the number shipped under Indian Articles. The numbers vary according to the requirements of the trade; 121 Eurasians were shipped and 273 discharged. A larger number and a better class of men are offering themselves as ordinary seamen, but it is difficult to find them suitable employment, as the demand is for able-bodied seamen. Besides the above, 42 seamen were shipped and 59 discharged by Foreign Consuls. Forty-six men were sent home as distressed seamen.

HEALTH OF THE PORT.

254. The number of inward and outward-bound vessels inspected during the year was 2,137. The number of European and Asiatic seamen respectively inspected, on inward-bound vessels, was 12,907 Europeans and 33,761 Asiatics; in outward-bound vessels there were inspected 26,718 Europeans and 65,294 Asiatics. Inspection of vesesels.

255. The daily average population of the Port was 1,154. The death-rate amongst European seamen was 19·93 per mille, and amongst native seamen 5·37 per mille. There were 63 deaths of natives from cholera. Health of the Port.

256. Sixty-three thousand six hundred and sixty-eight lascars arrived in the Port, of whom 35,189 were in coasting steamers, 28,106 in foreign-going steamers, 82 in sailing ships, 300 in Turkish and Arab vessels. Sixty-five thousand two hundred and ninety-four lascars left the Port. Lascar crews.

257. Eighty-nine vessels were boarded on arrival from the plague-infected ports of Bombay, Mauritius, Aden, Red Sea Coast, Canton, Hong-Kong, and Hedjaz during the year. No case of plague was found on any of these vessels. No case of plague was detected among the crews or passengers of out-going vessels; but as there is no means of tracing what becomes of rejected persons, it is possible that some of them may have been cases of plague. No "infected ship" arrived in the Port during the year. Plague.

258. No pilgrim vessel sailed from Calcutta during the year. The S.S. *Ahmadi* left Jeddah on the 13th April 1902 with 458 return pilgrims, and arrived at Diamond Harbour with 441 pilgrims, there having been 17 deaths during the voyage. The pilgrims were landed at Diamond Harbour, and after disinfection were sent on to their homes by rail. Pilgrim Traffic.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

259. The revenue realised during 1902-1903 amounted to Rs. 77,27,412, as against an estimate of Rs. 74,97,310, the receipts being the largest on record. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 72,70,468. There was thus a net revenue of Rs. 4,56,944 on the transactions of the year. This surplus will be added to the Revenue Reserve Fund, instituted by the Commissioners as a provision against temporary depreciation of revenue from transient causes, and with the view of avoiding a disturbance of rates. The balance at credit of the fund, with this addition, is Rs. 16,74,971. Revenue receipts and expenditure.

260. A sum of Rs. 6,93,346 was expended during the year on various capital works; the expenditure was met from the revenue cash balance. The result was that less interest was earned than estimated (Rs. 48,000) on the investment of revenue cash balances; on the other hand the loan which was to have issued during the year was postponed, and there was no debit against the provision of Rs. 57,536, made in the budget estimate to meet one half-year's interest and sinking fund in respect to such loan. A sum of Rs. 2,31,010 was paid to Government, which reduced the capital debt of the Trust, which stood at Rs. 4,72,42,172 on the 31st March 1902, to Rs. 4,70,11,162. Capital expenditure.

Against this debt, the Commissioners hold properties, including works in progress, stock of stores, cash and securities in hand, of the value of Rs. 6,16,11,559; this does not include the Strand Bank lands, the capitalized value of which would amount to a considerable sum. The position of the Commissioners with respect to their debt may, therefore, be considered satisfactory. At the same time Sinking funds amounting to Rs. 38,03,617 have been accumulated by annual contributions from revenue for the extinction of the debt and may be added to the value of assets.

Depreciation and Insurance Funds.

261. The Commissioners have instituted a Depreciation Fund for the replacement of vessels and plant, and a Fire Insurance Fund to make good the loss by fire and other accidents. A sum of Rs. 2,51,788 was added to the Fund, and Rs. 1,33,118 were withdrawn to meet the cost of renewals of vessels and plant. The balance to the credit of the Funds at the close of the year stood at Rs. 13,21,513. In view of the improvement that had taken place in the financial position of the Trust, the Commissioners, with the sanction of Government, have reduced the charges on trade and shipping to the extent, since July 1902, of Rs. 4,04,000 per annum.

Jetties.

262. The receipts from the jetties proper amounted to Rs. 11,87,892, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,39,113, as compared with those of the previous year. The volume of traffic passing over the jetties was practically unaltered; the decrease is due mainly to a reduction in the rates of landing charges and the abolition of the charges for removing goods. It is due also to the Collector of Customs having simplified the procedure for clearing goods thus enabling consignees to remove them more expeditiously.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,45,289.

Tea warehouse.

263. The total receipts from the tea warehouse amounted to Rs. 1,08,342. Various proposals having for their object the cheapening of tea handling are under consideration.

Petroleum wharf.

264. The receipts from the petroleum wharf, exclusive of rents for lands and buildings, amounted to Rs. 3,57,835, and the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,12,950.

Vessels berthed at the jetties.

265. Two hundred and thirty-six vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 734,659 tons, were berthed at the jetties during the year. The average tonnage of vessels was 3,112 tons, and the average number of days each vessel occupied the jetties was 7·2 days.

Port and Port Approaches.

266. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 11,09,302, and the expenditure showed an increase of Rs. 77,795, leaving a surplus of Rs. 45,294. The expenditure includes an additional contribution of Rs. 94,890 to the depreciation fund for the renewal of vessels and plant. Allowing for this, the financial position improved to the amount of Rs. 56,491. This is due partly to a reduction in the working expenses, and partly to an increase in the receipts from Port dues.

The conditions of service of the Assistant Harbour Masters have been revised to make the service more attractive. A new Survey steamer has been provided, and two others are under construction to replace vessels that had become unserviceable; arrangements have been made for providing a self-contained light vessel for trial and 9 gas buoys, and the Commissioners are in communication with Mr. W. T. Douglass, the Light-house expert, regarding the improvement of the lighting of the river and its approaches generally. The Commissioners also propose to undertake the survey of the upper reaches of the river up to the limit of the tidal waters about five miles above Nadia.

Condition of the river.

267. The condition of the bars of the river, allowing for seasonal fluctuations, was on the whole fairly good throughout the year. The Commissioners are of opinion that a great improvement might be effected, and the channels maintained at sufficient depth for the purpose of navigation, by dredging the bars, and they propose, subject to the approval of Government, to purchase a suction dredger, powerful enough to raise 5,000 tons of silt per hour, for which tenders have been received.

Docks.

268. The receipts from the Docks amounted to Rs. 24,43,453, against Rs. 24,14,147, in 1901-1902, while the expenditure, exclusive of interest and sinking fund charges, amounted to Rs. 22,63,706, against Rs. 22,14,895 during the year before.

The details of the receipts and charges are given below :—

Receipts.	Rs.	Expenditure.	Rs.
Graving Dock ...	2,52,615	Salaries	5,85,311
Rent and miscellaneous ...	4,09,342	Working expenses ...	11,97,009
Imports	74,877	Repairs	2,33,311
Exports	16,80,191	Municipal taxes ...	1,66,075
Tugs and Hopper Barges	26,428		
Total ...	24,43,453	Total ...	22,63,706

There was a decrease in the revenue from exports due to the unfavourable conditions of trade that prevailed during the year. The export trade suffered owing to a decline in the demand for Bengal coal, and to a short crop of jute. Towards the close of the year, there were, however, signs of a good season of wheat and seeds, and the export of coal had commenced to revive. On the other hand additional revenue was derived from the hire of lands and buildings; and the earnings of tugs, working in connection with the Docks, previously credited to the "Port," were, during the year, credited to the Docks.

The Dry Dock continues to give a good return; there was a surplus of Rs. 1,81,504 on the work of the year.

269. The second Dry Dock will soon be ready for use. New works.

Five additional grain receiving sheds have been constructed, covering an area of about three acres.

A shed with railway platforms and sidings was erected as an adjunct to the transit sheds which the Commissioners contemplate reconstructing, as their storage capacity is found quite inadequate for the cargoes of the larger steamers now trading to the Port.

The west side of the tidal basin (shed No. 14) is being converted into a properly-equipped berth for the export produce, and an extension of the coal jetties has been taken in hand.

A large warehouse at a cost of Rs. 3,20,000 has been sanctioned for the storage of cargo waiting delivery. It is proposed to reconstruct the transit sheds at the jetties in order to provide additional accommodation for the cargoes of the class of vessels now visiting the port.

Minor works of the year included the building of a dispensary, lock-fast enclosures for the safe custody of valuable cargo, and two houses for the Dock officers, also the provision of a tug for the assistance of vessels moving from one berth to another in the Docks.

270. A sum of Rs. 9,66,248 was realised from special tolls levied under section 108 of the Calcutta Port Act of 1890. Special tolls.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

271. The actual receipts from and expenditure on account of the bridge during the year 1902-1903 amounted to Rs. 1,83,593 and Rs. 1,90,040 respectively, showing a loss of Rs. 6,447.

The bridge was opened for the passage of vessels on 155 occasions, of which 104 were on the ordinary fixed days of the week, and 51 were on Sundays on special application.

No sea-going vessel collided with the bridge.

THE PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

272. The Chittagong Port Fund opened with a balance of Rs. 17,207: the receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 84,330, and the expenditure to Rs. 96,881, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 4,656. Finance.

The receipts show a falling off of Rs. 43,385, due partly to a decrease under the heads "Port dues" and "Mooring fees," owing to fewer vessels having visited the Port, and mainly attributable to the transfer of the Iron Jetty at Double Moorings to the Assam-Bengal Railway. The expenditure also showed a decrease of Rs. 29,776, due partly to only one year's instalment, on account of

the *Gekko* loan, having been paid during the year, against two years' instalments during the previous year, and partly to the cost of the working of the abovementioned Iron Jetty not being charged to the Port Fund for the latter part of the year

A Bill was introduced into the Bengal Legislative Council to amend the Chittagong Port Commissioners' Act, so as to enable that body to levy a river due on all goods landed from, or shipped into, any sea-going vessel visiting the Port, at a maximum rate of 4 annas per ton. The rate has for the present been fixed at 2 annas per ton, and it is expected that this due will yield a revenue of about Rs. 20,000 per annum. The Bill was passed into law shortly after the close of the year.

Shipping. 273. A total of 383 vessels, aggregating 241,367 tons, entered the Port during the year, against 541 vessels with a tonnage of 270,113 during the previous year. Of these, 11 were vessels from foreign ports with a tonnage of 23,795.

There was a large reduction in the coasting trade, the arrivals being 372 vessels against 531 vessels in 1901-1902, a result due to a short jute crop, and to the fact that this staple now comes chiefly by rail.

In all, 368 vessels, aggregating 242,512 tons, cleared from the Port, against 536 vessels, with a tonnage of 269,529 tons, during the previous year. Of this number, 25 vessels, aggregating 49,163 tons, cleared for foreign ports, against 24 vessels, aggregating 48,459 tons, in 1901-1902.

The coasting outward trade showed a large reduction, the number of vessels cleared having been 343, with a tonnage of 193,349 tons, against 512 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 221,070 tons, in the previous year. The decrease was due to fewer vessels having cleared for Narayanganj, and to the discontinuance of the Special Steamer Service between Chittagong and Akyab.

Trade. 274. The principal articles of export are grain, jute and tea, and of imports mineral oil and salt. There was an increase under all heads except "Jute," which showed a decrease from 48,793 tons to 36,512 tons. This is due to a short crop and to larger shipments having been made from Calcutta, where freight is more easily obtainable.

Miscellaneous. 275. The appliances of the Port and light-houses are reported to have been kept in good order throughout the year. The Pilot Service worked satisfactorily and there were no accidents during the year.

276. The numbers of seamen shipped and discharged were 32 and 366, against 161 and 539, during 1901-1902.

Four vessels, carrying 2,032 pilgrims, sailed from Chittagong during the year. No vessels with pilgrims on board arrived at the Port.

THE PORTS OF ORISSA.

277. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 21,242, and the expenditure to Rs. 17,122, with an opening balance of Rs. 8,301. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 12,128, and no contribution from Government was required.

The value of the trade of the Ports was Rs. 84,39,316, against Rs. 82,42,330 in the preceding year. It is satisfactory to note that the trade of these Ports, which had declined in value for some years, owing to the superior attractions of the railway, revived to a small extent during the year under review. There were larger shipments of rice from Cuttack and Puri and of jute and certain other articles from Balasore.

Two hundred and thirty-seven vessels of 131,050 tons visited the Ports during the year.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report of the Agricultural Branch of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture for 1902-1903.]

Scientific Enquiries.

278. Enquiries were continued during the year as to the effect of the imposition of countervailing duties on sugar: so far as can be ascertained at present in this Province, it would appear that these duties have not had the effect of stimulating the indigenous cultivation of sugar or of arresting the decay of the sugar refining industry.

The enquiry as to the alleged deterioration of jute referred to in last year's Report was continued during the year: seeds of different varieties were procured locally from the most important jute districts and sown at the Burdwan Experimental Farm. The result of the continued selection of jute seed on this farm has been satisfactory, and it is hoped that the experiments which have been extended this year to the districts of Mymensingh, Jalpaiguri and Faridpur will lead to greater attention being paid to this important subject. The Director has recently brought to the notice of Government the excessive proportion of moisture found in jute offered for sale, and special enquiries are being conducted by him as to the alleged practice of fraudulently watering the fibre, and as to the measures which are necessary to prevent this form of deception. Research work in Bihar with the object of improving the indigo plant and increasing its yield of dye was continued during the year. Captain Gage, I.M.S., was deputed to Upper India to investigate the sources and nature of the indigo seed supply. His report on the subject was communicated to those interested in the industry. A grant of Rs. 2,000 was made by Government towards the expenses of a representative sent by the Indigo Improvement Syndicate to Natal to procure indigo seed. A grant of Rs. 7,000 a year for three years with effect from April 1903 was sanctioned towards the expenses of research work in connection with the Tea industry. The Director of Land Records while on tour directed special attention to the development of sericultural operations, and the question of establishing an Agricultural Research Station at Pusa; he also inspected the Burdwan, Sripur, Dumraon and Sibpur Farms, and the agricultural research work conducted at Peepra and Dalsingsarai.

Experimental Farms, etc.

279. Experiments with various manures, crops and methods of cultivation were carried on, as in former years, at the Burdwan and Dumraon Experimental Farms. The results of the trials at the Burdwan Farm of the deep-shared Sibpur plough have amply proved its superiority to the local plough; the trials at the Dumraon Farm of implements procured from Bombay failed, because the local bullocks are not accustomed to them. Important experiments with different varieties of cotton were tried at the last-named farm, the results of which will, it is trusted, help to solve the problem as to the varieties which may most suitably be introduced in this Province.

At the Sripur Cattle Farm in Saran, the system of cattle-breeding has been materially changed during the year under review in conformity with the advice of experts: the practice of importing cattle of the Hissar breed, in order to cross them with local cattle, has been abandoned for the present, and efforts are being made to improve and develop the indigenous strains of this Province without having recourse to foreign stock.

The Chittagong Farm is reported to have done much to improve the agricultural knowledge of the people of the district, and, in particular, has led to the establishment in the district of several similar farms.

The Director of Land Records in his Report for the year 1901-1902 drew attention to the fact that many of the experiments which are conducted in Government and Wards' estates fail, owing to neglect and want of adequate supervision. He urged that demonstration farms should be established near the head-quarters of each district, where they could be supervised by the

District Officer, and that the money now devoted to petty and isolated experiments might be much more usefully spent in the form of contributions to such farms. The scheme submitted with the object of giving effect to these proposals, and, generally, of reorganizing the Agricultural Department of the Province on a popular basis, so as to bring it into direct relations with the classes of the community which are dependent upon agriculture, was duly considered by Government, which came to the conclusion that the scheme was too ambitious, and that, for the present, the Bengal Agricultural Department should devote itself especially to research work, and that gradually, and in due course, this work could be usefully combined with the demonstration of results. In accordance with these views, it has been decided that the Research Station, with an Agricultural College and classes attached to it, which will shortly be opened in Bengal, should, in future, form the nucleus of all research work in this province, and that round this centre should be grouped experimental farms, one in each Division, manned by minor experts trained at the Research Station, and conducted on the strictest possible scientific principles. Research work would be carried on in these Divisional farms, and the superiority of improved agricultural methods would also be demonstrated on them, or on farms situated in Government or Wards' estates.

Sericulture.

280. The efforts of the Bengal Silk Committee, which have for some years been assisted by Government, to restore the silk-rearing industry by instructing the rearers how to select seed and to rear silkworms have been attended with a considerable measure of success, and the record of the work done during the year is one of continuous progress. In Birbhum, where the operations of the Committee last year were unsuccessful, prospects are now hopeful; in Bogra it is gratifying to observe that confidence in modern methods has been secured, and that the rearers of silkworms are now returning to their abandoned occupation. In the other districts to which the operations of the Committee have extended, viz., Malda, Murshidabad and Rajshahi, fresh nurseries have been established, the use of selected seed is spreading, and the work of the Committee has generally had most beneficial results. Sericultural instruction is imparted in the Industrial School at Rampur Boalia, of which the Sericultural School is a separate branch. The award of eight scholarships by the District Board of Rajshahi to sons of *bonâ fide* rearers, as also the scholarships given by the District Board of Malda and the Puthia Estate, are calculated to encourage the development of the silk industry. The success of the students in passing the examinations and in obtaining employment subsequently are satisfactory features in the working of the school.

Agricultural Education.

281. The results of the examinations of the Sibpur Agricultural Class were very creditable and there was a large increase in the number of admissions in the first-year class.

In accordance with a recommendation made by the Education Conference held at Simla in the year 1901, steps are being taken to afford greater facilities for instruction in agricultural methods. With this object Government has sanctioned, as an experimental measure, the establishment of demonstration gardens in connection with a few schools in the division of each Inspector of Schools, as also the opening of agricultural classes in five selected schools.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for 1902-1903: Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1902-1903.]

Character of the season.

282. The total rainfall of the year was below the normal generally except in the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions.

In the first half of April the rainfall was light, but from the 14th to the 24th idem unusually heavy rain fell daily in East Bengal. Dacca, Backergunge, Tippera, Noakhali and Chittagong received nearly four times the normal amount. In May there was a deficiency in the western districts. The showery weather continued fairly general in the early part of June, even in the western districts, but the rainfall was usually light. From he 11th, when the monsoon commenced in East Bengal, showers almost

entirely ceased in the western districts, and during the latter half of June conditions in the west and east of the Province were in marked contrast. There was general and heavy rain on the 30th June, and ordinary monsoon conditions became generally established in the west of the Province in the early days of July. In August the average fall in North Bengal was 23 per cent. in excess and there was also a slight excess in Orissa. In the other divisions the rainfall was more or less in defect, 30 per cent. in Bihar and 40 per cent. in Chota Nagpur. In September the monsoon conditions were well maintained in Bengal, especially in the northern districts. The average fall in North Bengal in September was 25 inches, or nearly 10 inches in excess, and that in Bihar 14 inches, or 4 inches in excess. October opened with a few good showers in Lower Bengal, and a number of stations in East Bengal received more than 3 inches on the 3rd and 4th. Only a few moderate showers fell after the 4th, and the drought continued to the end of February 1903, and in consequence of which the *rabi* crops, including oilseeds and sugar-cane, gave very poor results. In March there were fairly good showers all over the Province, save Bihar and North Bengal. On the whole, the season was not favourable to the agricultural operations of the Province, though it was certainly much better than that of 1901-1902.

283. The total cropped area of the Province in a normal year amounts, according to the latest estimates, to nearly 62 million acres, of which winter rice, which is the staple food-crop of the Province, accounts for about 30 million acres; the various *bhadoi* food-crops occupy a little over 12½ million and the *rabi* food-crops nearly 11 million acres. Oilseeds are grown over 3¾ millions of acres. The total area actually cropped in 1902-1903 is estimated at 59,314,000 acres, as compared with 57,125,900 acres of the preceding year. The figures for the different harvests are compared below for the past two years:— **Total cropped area.**

	1901-1902. Acres.	1902-1903. Acres.
Bhadoi	15,325,100	15,007,800
Winter rice	27,175,400	29,307,900
Rabi	14,625,400	14,998,300

The outturn for the whole Province of all the crops taken together amounted last year to 90 per cent. of the normal, against 78 per cent. in 1901-1902.

284. There was a falling off in the area planted with the *bhadoi* crops last year, owing to the excessive rainfall in the sowing season in East Bengal and scantiness of the same in Bihar and Chota Nagpur. The same cause, as well as the early cessation of the rains, reduced the average outturn to 88 per cent. of a normal crop, against 90 per cent. in the previous two years. **Bhadoi or autumn crops.**

The total area cultivated with all descriptions of *bhadoi* crops, both food and non-food, was 15,007,800 acres, as compared with 15,325,100 acres of the preceding year and a normal area of 15,861,400 acres.

Food-crops occupied 12,075,300, as compared with a normal area of 12,506,900 acres, and their outturn was estimated at only 90 per cent. of a normal crop. The various non-food crops, including jute, indigo and *bhadoi til*, were sown in 2,932,500 acres, the normal area being estimated at 3,354,500 acres. The jute crop was estimated at 80 per cent., and indigo, which was the poorest of all, gave a 50 per cent. outturn only, the total yield of all the *bhadoi* non-food-crops being estimated at 79 per cent. of the normal.

285. The *ante*-monsoon showers were exceptionally heavy, especially in Eastern Bengal, but the monsoon broke late, particularly in Bihar, and gave less than normal rain everywhere, except in North and East Bengal. October was unusually dry, so that the monsoon may be said to have terminated in September. This capricious nature of the rainfall and the partial failure of the October rains slightly affected the winter rice crop, the provincial outturn being estimated at 94 per cent. of the average. The area sown was estimated at 29,307,900 acres, as compared with 27,175,400 acres of the preceding year, the normal area under this crop being returned at 29,879,300 acres. **Winter rice.**

286. The abrupt termination of the monsoon early in October retarded the sowings of the *rabi* crops, and the drought that followed destroyed the prospects of even an average harvest. ***Rabi* crops.**

The result was that the outturn for the Province, as a whole, was only 86 per cent., as compared with 75 per cent. in the preceding year.

The total area cultivated in all the *rabi* crops, both food and non-food, was estimated at 14,998,300 acres, against 14,625,400 acres of the preceding year, the total normal area being returned at 16,120,900 acres, the drought at the sowing season having caused a marked decrease in the area sown. The total area cultivated with the various *rabi* food-crops, including wheat and sugarcane, amounted to 10,095,200 acres only in the year under report, against 9,735,500 acres in 1901-1902, and the outturn amounted to only 88 per cent. of the average, as compared with 71 per cent. of the previous year. The area sown last year with the different *rabi* non-food-crops, including cotton and *rabi* oilseeds, was estimated at 4,904,100 acres, as compared with a total normal area of 5,359,100 acres, and the outturn was estimated at only 84 per cent. of the normal.

The *boro* or summer rice was a normal crop, while wheat and sugarcane yielded 90 and 92 per cent., respectively, of the average.

287. The following summary of the harvest is given Division by Division:—

In the Burdwan Division* the rainfall during the earlier part of the year was good and well distributed almost everywhere, but in consequence of deficient fall from July to October, the crops suffered considerably. The average outturn of crops was much below the average everywhere, except in Birbhum, where it was normal. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division gave only 86 per cent. outturn, while the winter rice crop, which is the principal food-crop of the people, yielded only 81 per cent. of a normal crop. The abrupt cessation of the monsoon rains in September affected the *rabi* crops, which gave only 72 per cent. of the average.

In the Presidency Division the rainfall was generally seasonable and well distributed, except in Nadia and Jessore. Excessive rain in April and May affected the sowing of jute, *til*, *aus* and *aman* paddy in the district of Jessore. Again the deficient fall during the months of November 1902 to February 1903 retarded the growth of oilseeds and *rabi* crops to some extent. Crops generally were a little below the average. *Bhadoi* crops in the Division gave only a 83 per cent. outturn, while winter rice, the staple food-crop of the Division, yielded only 88 per cent. The outturn of the *rabi* food-crops amounted to only 73 per cent. of the normal.

In the Rajshahi Division excessive rain caused damage to the *bhutta* crop in Darjeeling and to *bhadoi* paddy in Jalpaiguri, Rangpur and Pabna. The weather was generally seasonable, and the staple crops, with the exception of jute, were fair. The *bhadoi* food-crops gave a 91 per cent. outturn, and the *bhadoi* non-food-crops, excluding jute and indigo, yielded 108 per cent. Jute was an 82 per cent. crop, while the indigo, with a 50 per cent. production, proved to be the worst crop of the year. Winter rice was just above the average, and the *rabi* food-crops, excluding wheat, which is not a staple crop here, produced a 96 per cent. outturn, while the oilseeds yielded 80 per cent. of the normal.

The rainfall was excessive in the Dacca Division and damaged to a large extent the jute and autumn rice, but benefited the winter rice. The distribution of the rain was generally favourable to the winter rice, but not to the jute and the *rabi* crops. The divisional outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops was 83 per cent., and that of the winter rice 99 per cent. Jute was a 72 per cent. crop, and the *rabi* food-crops averaged only 92 per cent.

In the Chittagong Division early floods in Tippera, caused by heavy rain, damaged the winter rice crop in low-lying lands. During the latter half of the year the rainfall was insufficient to the great disadvantage of the *rabi* crops. The *aman* crops suffered in Noakhali and Chittagong, owing to heavy rainfall in the former and to absence of rain in October in the latter. The *bhadoi* food-crops produced only 74 per cent. of the normal. Jute was only a 50 per cent. crop, while winter rice yielded 95 per cent. of the average.

* Figures showing the rainfall of each district in this and the other Divisions during the year will be found in Appendix XXVIII to the Land Revenue Administration Report of the Lower Provinces for 1902-1903.

The *rabi* food-crops were poor and gave only a 88 per cent. outturn, while the oilseeds were estimated at 82 per cent.

In the Patna Division the rainfall was not only deficient, following two successive years of deficiency, but was besides unevenly distributed, and the result was a partial failure of crop in some tracts. The fall was seasonable to the *bhadoi* and *rabi* crops in Patna, to *bhadoi* and winter rice crops in Champaran, to winter rice and *rabi* crops in Shahabad and Saran, and to the winter rice crop in Muzaffarpur. The *bhadoi* food-crops, including the autumn rice, marua and maize, gave an average outturn of 84 per cent. Indigo yielded only 46 per cent. Poppy gave an 88 per cent. outturn, while the winter rice produced an average of 92 per cent. The rice crops were the best in Champaran and the worst in Patna. The *rabi* crops were also poor. The divisional outturns of wheat and barley, which are staple food-crops here, were 89 and 83 per cent., respectively. Of the oilseed crops linseed was the best and produced 93 per cent. The other oilseeds were estimated at only 88 per cent.

The rainfall in the Bhagalpur Division was slightly below the average, and the deficiency was most marked, as in the case of other parts of the Province, during the latter half of the year under report. There was absolutely no rain in Monghyr in the months of November and December, and it was at one time feared that the *rabi* crops would be destroyed. But a few beneficial showers in January saved the situation at last. The *bhadoi* food-crops, including marua and maize, which are important food-crops here, yielded an outturn of 90 per cent. The outturn in Purnea was better than in the previous year, while in Malda it was fully up to the average. Poppy produced a 96 per cent. crop. The outturn of winter rice was generally good, and especially in Malda, which produced 104 per cent. of the normal. For the Division as a whole, winter rice yielded 96 per cent., while sugarcane produced as much as 109 per cent. Indigo was better here than in the other parts of Bihar and gave 75 per cent. The *rabi* food-crops, including wheat and barley, which are among the staple food-crops in this Division also, gave an outturn of 90 per cent., while the oilseeds yielded 84 per cent. The mango crop in Malda was poor.

In the Orissa Division also the rainfall was deficient, and agricultural operations were retarded in the beginning, while the cessation of rain in September and October did material damage to the standing crops. The season was especially unfavourable in Angul, where the average outturn of all the crops of the year was estimated at only 64 per cent. of the average. The winter rice crop in Angul was only 60 per cent. of the normal, though the divisional average amounted to 87 per cent. The *bhadoi* harvests were 93 per cent. of the normal, while the *rabi* food-crops and oilseeds were 82 and 76 per cent. respectively. These average outturns, however, are better than those of the previous year.

In the Chota Nagpur Division the rainfall during the year under report was eight inches below the normal. The rains were, however, more favourable to the *bhadoi* and winter crops than to the *rabi* crops, which suffered severely from the sudden cessation of rains in October. The *bhadoi* harvests, including autumn rice, were about 98 per cent., while the winter rice crop was estimated at 93 per cent. All the *rabi* food-crops in the Division averaged 83 per cent., and the oilseed crops 80 per cent.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report on the Royal Botanic Garden and the Lloyd Botanic Garden for 1902-1903.]

288. During the year the cultivable area of the Royal Botanic Garden was increased, and the fern-house in the nursery which had become dilapidated was thoroughly repaired. The weather of the year was favourable to vegetation.

The usual attention was devoted during the year to the propagation and investigation of plants of economic importance, notably of those yielding fibre, and of yams. The number of named specimens received in the herbarium was 14,920, and 10,888 were distributed to other herbaria. The number of plants distributed during the year was 37,368, and the number received was 8,203: 897 packets of seed were received and 5,270 packets distributed. The Lloyd Botanic Garden at Darjeeling was in a satisfactory condition throughout the year.

Forests.

[Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1902-1903.]

Forest areas.

289. The only change of importance in forest areas made during the year was the disforestation of 86 square miles of protected forests in the Sundarbans Division.

Settlement, surveys, and demarcation.

290. As in previous years, the progress of Settlement operations in the Chittagong Division was slow, owing to the fact that the tahsildars, who acted as Forest Settlement Officers, could not find time to push on the work. An area of 33·84 square miles in the Porahat Estate of the Singhbhum District was selected as Protected forests. In the Chittagong Division, 40 miles of boundary were demarcated and cleared, along with 26 miles of added boundary line. Survey operations were carried on during the year by a detachment of Forest Surveys in Kurseong, Darjeeling and Kalimpong.

Working plans.

291. Working plans for the Mal forest in the Tista Division and for the Puri Reserved Forests have been sanctioned by Government. The preparation of the Singhbhum plan was continued during the year: a plan was prepared for the Kurseong forests and another for the Buxaforests was commenced. The revision of the Darjeeling working planhas been approved. The revision of the Sundarbans plan was delayed, owing to the fact that the forests are, as an experimental measure, being worked on a new system, of which the thinning of a large area is the principal feature.

Breaches of Forest Law.

292. The total number of offences against the Forest Law increased by 1,004, or by 39 *per cent.*, the increase being mainly due to the endeavours of the Forest Department to prevent the practice of cutting undersized *sundri* logs in the Sundarbans Division. Notwithstanding the increase in the number of offences, there was a considerable decrease in the number of cases taken into Court. This is attributed to greater willingness on the part of offenders to compound offences, and to the fact that some Divisional Officers are averse to allowing their subordinates to leave their work for several days at a time in order to prosecute offenders in distant Courts.

Forest fires.

293. Protection of the forests from fire was much more successful in the specially protected areas in the Singhbhum and Palamau Divisions than in the previous year. On the other hand, there was a large increase in the areas burnt in the Angul and Darjeeling Divisions. Out of a total of 5,651 acres, which suffered from fire in the Singhbhum Division, no less than 5,120 acres were burnt by fires which crossed the forest boundaries from the Gangpur State. In Angul, 22,312 acres were burnt, as compared with 4,790 acres last year, 14,740 acres being destroyed by fires which crossed the forest boundaries from the Athmalik State. The occurrence of these fires in the States referred to has been brought to the notice of the Chiefs concerned, and the necessity of taking preventive measures has been seriously impressed upon them. Also, the Conservator has been requested to examine the subject during his present cold-weather tour, and to submit, as soon as practicable, a special report showing how far the orders issued by Government, from time to time, with the object of preventing fires crossing from the Native States of Chota Nagpur and Orissa, have been carried out, and what further measures, if any, seem to be required.

In Darjeeling, of 7,005 acres which suffered from fire, 6,912 acres were burnt in the Singalila Reserve by two fires, of which one originated in Nepal and the other in a village in British territory. These fires caused an exceptional amount of damage, killing the tree growth on the greater part of the area traversed, and destroying a silver fir plantation of 48 acres. The question of the protection of this forest from fire is now under the consideration of Government, and the co-operation of the Nepal Durbar in the matter has been solicited.

Improvement of Forest Growth.

294. Throughout the Darjeeling Terai, the progress of natural reproduction of sal continued satisfactory, and though in Singhbhum, Palamau, Puri and Angul progress was slow, or was of a rapid description in favourable localities only, reports from these Divisions show that, where fires and grazing were kept out, a steady improvement was maintained. Sal seeded well in all Divisions except Palamau and Angul.

In the Darjeeling Division, 47 acres, of the 48 acres of silver fir plantation near Sandakphu, destroyed by fire, were replanted, and a part of the Jalapahar Cantonment, comprising 83 acres, was made over to the Forest

Department for plantation, and nurseries of suitable trees were sown in this area. In the Tista Division, the rubber plantation was extended by 15 acres with very promising results.

295. Exclusive of unsuccessful sowings of teak in Puri and of repairs, cultural operations were carried out over an area of 235 acres; the greater part of the work was, as usual, carried out in the Darjeeling Division. Creeper-cutting was carried out over an area of 38,582 acres. Outturn of Forest Produce.

296. The total outturn of wood-timber and fuel was 40,510,887 cubic feet, or 1,921,048 cubic feet less than in the previous year. The decrease was very large in the Sundarbans Division, and was chiefly due to the enforcement of regulations with regard to the size of the *sundri* timber that may be felled there.

297. Information under this head will be found in Chapter V, "Revenue and Finance." Financial Results.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Divisional Commissioners' Miscellaneous Reports for 1902-1903: Agricultural Statistics of India—Nos. 7-8, Tea; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India—Sections XXI, Cotton Mills; XXII, Jute Mills; XXVI, Coal Mines; XXVIII, Mineral Production; XXVIII, Large Industries.]

298. The total area cropped under jute in 1902 was estimated at 2,108,300 acres, and the total outturn at 528,000 bales, as against 2,263,800 acres and 650,000 bales, respectively, in the previous year. Taking the Province as a whole, the outturn was 80 per cent. of a normal crop, against 90 per cent. in the preceding year. Jute.

The total number of spindles in the steam jute mills of Bengal at work during the year was 348,656, of which 209,048 were in the 24-Parganas, 57,060 in the Hooghly district, and 82,548 in the Howrah district. They gave employment to 117,810 persons in all.

299. The total number of spindles at work in steam cotton mills was 439,586, giving employment to 10,948 persons. The quantity of woven goods produced in these mills, which are all of them near Calcutta, was 414,856 lbs. Cotton Mills.

300. The number of tea plantations in the Province during the year under report was 438 as against 452 in the preceding year. The area under cultivation (135,158 acres) was practically the same as in the previous year. The quantity of tea manufactured during the year was 46,027,823 lbs., the corresponding figure for the last year being 46,203,980 lbs. The number of persons employed in the industry was 584,482. In Jalpaiguri, where more than half the gardens are, the outturn was 31,635,776 lbs. The industry is chiefly confined to this district and the district of Darjeeling, where there are 170 gardens with a total outturn of 12,781,180 lbs. Tea.

In consequence of the low prices obtained for tea placed on the markets in excess of consuming capacity, endeavours have been made to restrict cultivation and production and to supply the consumer with tea of better quality in smaller quantity.

301. The outturn of the indigo crop was, according to the final figures furnished by Messrs. Moran & Co. of Calcutta, 30,842 Factory maunds, 4,566 maunds for Lower Bengal and 26,276 maunds for Bihar, mostly made up of 11,114 maunds for Tirhut and 10,790 maunds for Champaran. This is the smallest crop on record. Indigo.

302. The total production of the 306 coal mines in Bengal was 6,259,236 tons, and the total number of persons employed was 82,545. Of the total output which was considerably higher than in 1901, 3,042,223 tons were contributed by the Raniganj coal-field, 2,420,786 tons by the Jherriah coal-field, and 776,656 tons by the Giridih coal-field. Coal.

303. The rainfall during the year was much above the normal, being 171·46 inches, as against an average of 122·62 for the preceding 28 years. There was, however, little damage caused by landslides on the plantation. The number of plants put out during the year was 458,927; 91 acres were planted at the head-quarters plantations (Mungpoo and Sillong) and 89 acres at Munsong. The total number of living trees of all kinds in the permanent plantations on the 31st March 1903 was 3,015,600. Of these, 1,977,315 were at Mungpoo, 208,331 at Sillong, and 829,954 at Munsong. The crop taken from the Munsong Cinchona.

plantation during the year was 235,605 lbs. of dry bark, from Mungpoo 209,219 lbs., and from Sillong 25,781.

The raw material worked up during the year included 392,250 lbs. of *Ledgeriana*, *Hybrid No. 1*, and *Officinalis* bark, which provided 11,927¼ lbs. sulphate of quinine, the average yield being 3·04 per cent.; the residual alkaloids left over in the process, accounted for during the year, amounted to 3,516 lbs. In addition to the foregoing quantity of bark, 84,800 lbs. of mixed *Succirubra* and *Hybrid* bark, to which 3,036 lbs. of residual alkaloids were added, yielded 4,343 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge. The total outturn of manufactured products for the year was thus 16,275 lbs. 4 oz., an increase as compared with the previous year of 2,840 lbs. 8oz. This increased quantity included 1,916 lbs. 8 oz. of sulphate of quinine and 924 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge.

The issues of sulphate of quinine for the year amounted to 10,950 lbs., an increase of 1,157 lbs. as compared with 1901-02. There was an increased demand for 800 lbs. from medical depôts and for 523 lbs. in connection with the pice-packet system. Government dispensaries took 214 lbs. less than in the previous year. The issues of cinchona febrifuge amounted to 4,506 lbs., an increase of 835 lbs. as compared with 1901-02.

The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 2,11,785 and the net surplus to Rs. 48,408.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF MANUFACTURES AND MINES IN THE SEVERAL DIVISIONS.

Burdwan Division.

304. The outturn of coal in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Bankura amounted to 2,810,342 tons.

Several important jute and cotton mills are at work in Hooghly and Howrah: complete figures as to the outturn of these mills in Bengal are given above.

As in previous years, the silk industry was carried on in the districts of Birbhum, Bankura and Midnapore. Tasar cloth continued to be manufactured in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura and Midnapore. This industry is decaying in Burdwan and Bankura owing to the introduction in the former of cheaper and fine silks from Bombay and Benares, and in the latter to the rise in the price of cocoons or raw materials. Cotton cloth was manufactured on a limited scale in all the districts of the Division, but the industry is gradually declining owing to foreign competition and the demand for the cheaper kind of European piece-goods. The fly-shuttle loom continues to be in use in Serampore and its neighbourhood.

There are iron works at Barakur in Burdwan and also at Howrah. The outturn at Barakur was 43,663 tons, against 37,205 in the previous year; the estimated value being Rs. 24,40,035, against Rs. 24,09,798 in the previous year. The quantity turned out in Howrah was valued at Rs. 28,00,000. The outturn of the pottery works at Raniganj was valued at Rs. 6,40,317, which is a large increase on the figures of the previous year. The manufacture of shell-lac was carried on to some extent in Bankura and in a very limited degree in Birbhum. The total outturn in Bankura was 6,737 maunds, against 8,207 maunds in the previous year. The quantity of paper produced at Bally was 6,176,238 lbs., valued at Rs. 6,75,526, and the value of the outturn at Raniganj was the same as in the year before, viz., Rs. 13,50,000.

Presidency Division.

305. The cotton trade during the year under report was unsatisfactory. There was a fairly active demand for yarn for local consumption, but prices were unremunerative owing to high rates for raw cotton. The season's cotton crop was abundant, but quality was unsatisfactory and prices ruled very dear owing to a large export demand. The jute crop being a 13-anna crop led to an increase in the value of the raw material. Demand was in excess of the supply, and the shortness would have been more apparent had it not been for the fact that the jute mills carried over large stocks of the raw material from the previous season. The total outturn of the two paper mills at Titagarh and Kankinara was 19,131,092 lbs., valued at Rs. 29,03,896, as against 19,737,877 lbs., valued at Rs. 29,94,143, in the previous year. The indigo industry has practically died out. The weaving of silk cloth in the district of Murshidabad, which has been on the decline in recent years, is reported to be reviving. The quantity of silk manufactured was 396,413 lbs., valued at Rs. 26,71,753. The sugar industry has greatly declined throughout the Division. Seventy-five factories of all

kinds were actually at work at the close of the year, and the average daily number of employés aggregated 100,695.

306. The only district in the Division where silk is produced is Rajshahi. The quantity of silk manufactured during the year under report was 105,569 lbs., against 162,559 lbs. in the previous year. The decrease is chiefly due to the partial failure of the silkworms, brought about by the scanty supply of mulberry leaves due to want of rain. Only 5,040 maunds of ganja were manufactured during the year under review as against 11,324 maunds in the previous year—a decrease of 6,284 maunds. This decrease is partly due to the fact that a comparatively small area was brought under cultivation and partly to the fact that the crop was slightly damaged by insects. Rajshahi Division.

Figures with regard to the tea industry in Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling are given under "Tea." Various kinds of cotton cloth are produced on hand-looms in Pabna. The weavers of the district generally seem averse to any change in the methods of weaving, and an attempt made to teach them the use of the fly-shuttle met with little or no success.

307. Cotton fabrics and shell-carving are the principal manufactures of Dacca. Exhibits of these manufactures were most successful at the recent Indian Art Exhibition held at Delhi. The two steam-oil mills at Dacca and Jhalakati in Backergunge continued to work profitably during the year. Dacca Division.

308. The quantity of tea manufactured in Chittagong during the year was 1,281,086 lbs. as against 1,187,283 lbs in 1901. The increase is ascribed to good rain between April and October. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, 16,610 lbs. of tea were manufactured as against 20,040 lbs. in 1901. The decrease was due to the damage done by insects owing to excessive rain. Chittagong Division.

309. Indigo, one of the most important industries of the Division, is treated of above. The outturn of saltpetre was 229,419 maunds. Patna Division.

310. Sugar is manufactured, more or less, in all the districts of the Division. As reported last year, the industry is declining in Shahabad owing, it is said, to the large importation of Mauritius sugar, which is cheaper than the locally-made article. The outturn and value of sugar in the district of Saran are reported to be 51,720 maunds and Rs. 4,05,140 respectively as against 46,720 maunds and Rs. 3,66,365 respectively in the previous year. In Champaran the outturn was estimated at 18,852 maunds, which is a little above that for 1901-1902. In Darbhanga the estimated value of sugar manufactured during the year was Rs. 3,40,080, or practically the same as in the preceding year. The total outturn of the mica mines in the district of Gaya was 2,996 maunds as against 2,380 maunds in the previous year.

311. During the year under report 859 guns and pistols, the manufacture of which was confined to Monghyr only, were exported as against 668 in the preceding year. The two silk factories in the district of Malda under European management turned out 33,040 lbs. of raw silk—a slightly larger quantity than in the previous year. The manufacture of country cloths by native weavers, which is still carried on in several parts of this Division, is gradually giving way in competition with European piece-goods. The manufacture of brass and *bidri* wares in Purnea is also steadily declining. Bhagalpur Division.

The eight coal mines in the Sonthal Parganas yielded only 2,226 tons of coal.

312. As reported in previous years, there is no manufacture of any importance in this Division. The endeavour to introduce the process of weaving by the fly-shuttle loom has not been very successful. Salt manufacture as an industry has ceased in the Division. There are no mines in this Division, but laterite, sandstone, limestone, gravel, etc., are quarried for building and road-metalling purposes. Orissa Division.

313. Factories for the manufacture of shell-lac exist only in the districts of Ranchi and Manbhum. The lac trade in Ranchi has not recovered from the crisis it went through in 1895-96 when prices were abnormally low in consequence of the over-stocked Calcutta market. In Manbhum there were altogether 48 factories working during the year as against 40 in the preceding year. There was a very poor crop of raw *kusumi* lac during the year under review owing to irregular rainfall. Chota Nagpur Division.

The tea industry in Hazaribagh is gradually dying out, and practically all the gardens have been abandoned. The total quantity of tea manufactured

was only 2,000 lbs. In Ranchi 21 tea gardens were working during the year, and the outturn of manufactured tea was 311,171 lbs. as against 370,583 lbs. in the previous year.

The tasar silk-weaving industry in Manbhum is not in a flourishing condition. Coal is the most important mineral of the districts of Hazaribagh, Palamau and Manbhum, while the mica-mining industry in Hazaribagh has considerably developed. The total output of coal in these districts was 3,446,668 tons. The output of mica in Hazaribagh was 833 tons. In April 1902 revised rules were published for the grant of prospecting licenses and mining leases for mica in Bengal.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal for 1902; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIX.]

Number of factories and system of work.

314. Ten factories were brought under the operation of the Indian Factories Act during the year under report, and four stopped working. The number of factories at the close of the year was 259. In 98 factories work was carried on by shifts or sets, in 112 with midday stoppages, in 4 by a combination of shifts and midday stoppages, and in 27 with other arrangements: information as regards the remaining 18 factories has not been supplied. The average daily number of operatives in the mills aggregated 205,152. The figures as compared with the figures of the year 1893, when the factory report was first submitted, show that the number of factory employés has increased by 46 per cent. in nine years. The jute mills were fully employed during the year, but several cotton mills closed for short periods, owing to a deficiency of labour and slackness in the demand for yarn.

Inspections.

315. Inspections were made of 30 factories once, of 52 twice, of 30 three times, and of 140 more than three times. Six factories in all were not inspected. The inspections were generally attended with good results, and the suggestions made by the inspecting officers in regard to the fencing of machinery, water-supply, sanitation, ventilation, and the employment of women and children received, as a rule, early attention from the managers.

Sanitary arrangements and ventilation.

316. The sanitary arrangements were generally satisfactory: the premises were, for the most part, found by the inspecting officers to be clean, well ventilated, well drained, and free from overcrowding. Excellent results have followed the introduction of the septic-tank system at the Gloster Jute Mill, and large latrines on this system are being constructed at other mills.

Quarters for operatives.

317. In most of the factories in the 24-Parganas cooly-lines have been provided for the operatives, and the sanitary condition of these quarters is good. Much was done during the year to improve the condition of the *bustees* occupied by operatives outside the mill compounds in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. Thus, in the Bhatpara Municipality, the Mirpur *bustee* has been entirely remodelled, while, in the Garden Reach Municipality, one of the worst *bustees*, the Kopibagan *bustee* has been similarly dealt with. In the Serampore Municipality also steps are being taken to improve the condition of several *bustees*.

Vaccination of operatives.

318. As a general rule, no unvaccinated operatives were employed. In the Hooghly district, however, it is reported that the up-country immigrant is extremely averse to the operation, and that mill-owners are unable to refuse admittance to unprotected persons. As no similar difficulty has been reported from other districts, the matter has been made the subject of a special enquiry.

Water-supply.

319. The supply of drinking-water was generally good. Unfiltered water is, however, still used to a large extent in the Hooghly district and at some of the mills in the Presidency Division. Excellent filtering beds were introduced at the Anglo-Indian Jute Mill and the Alliance Mill in Calcutta.

General health, wages and general condition of operatives.

320. The general health of the operatives was good. In the Burdwan Division, however, there was an outbreak of cholera at one of the local Iron Works, resulting in the death of 33 persons. The wages of the different classes of skilled and unskilled labour vary considerably, not only in one district as compared with another, but in one class of factory as compared with another in the same district. The wages of the operatives, however, are much higher than those earned by people of the same class engaged in other pursuits, and their

condition is generally more prosperous. The rules regarding the employment of women and children were generally observed in all the factories.

321. Generally speaking, all machinery was properly fenced. The total number of accidents during the year was 683, against 548 and 462 during the two preceding years. Of these, 456 were of a slight, and 194 of a serious, nature, while 33 proved fatal. Most of the fatal accidents were due to falls, and a few only were connected directly with machinery. Almost all the accidents were due to carelessness or negligence on the part of the operatives killed or injured. **Accidents.**

322. There were three prosecutions under the Act during the year. **Prosecutions.**

Trade.

FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1902-1903.]

323. The trade of the province reached its highest point in 1901-1902, and this high level was maintained in 1902-1903 in regard to imports of private merchandise. Both imports and exports of treasure increased, but exports of merchandise declined by 153 lakhs.

324. The extent to which the foreign trade of the Province is centred in Calcutta is apparent from the following figures of the value of the trade in 1902-1903 (000's omitted):—

		The Province.	Calcutta.
		Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise—			
Imports	...	32,82,89	32,65,99
Exports	...	53,85,49	52,03,71
Treasure—			
Imports	...	5,72,94	5,72,94
Exports	...	83,62	83,62

At Chittagong there is a small import trade in railway material, salt, metals, cotton piece-goods, machinery, glassware and tea-chests. The principal exports are tea and jute, the trade being stimulated by the opening of the Assam-Bengal Railway and the running of Clan Line steamers direct to the United Kingdom. The remaining export is rice, which is also the staple export of the Orissa ports of Balasore, Cuttack and Puri. The aggregate trade of the subordinate ports is, however, in most articles so small a fraction of the whole that in the paragraphs below, reviewing the course of the trade in each important item, the remarks made apply to Calcutta only, unless the trade at any other port is specifically mentioned.

Imports of Merchandise.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1902-1903.]

325. The 32·66 crores, which represented the value of imported merchandise, were distributed in the main as follows among the principal articles in the import trade (000's omitted):—

				Rs.
Cotton piece-goods, Rs. 15,00,78 „ other fabrics, „ 43,89 „ yarn, „ 58,63	...	...	...	16,03,35
Iron and steel	...	...	...	2,52,87
Sugar ...	...	...	...	1,48,36
Petroleum—				
Kerosene, Rs. 1,31,59 Other sorts, „ 18,61	...	...	...	1,50,20
Machinery and millwork	...	...	...	1,21,47
Woollen goods	...	...	...	50,50
Hardware and cutlery	...	...	...	76,79
Railway material	...	...	...	47,55
Liquors ...	...	...	...	53,77
Drugs and narcotics	...	...	...	47,09
Apparel ...	...	...	...	47,82
Salt ...	...	...	...	49,32

Almost half of the aggregate is represented by the vast trade in cotton-goods and yarns. The effectiveness of the competition of cotton spun and woven in India with these goods is attested by the relative stagnation of the imports, which do not keep pace with the growing demand arising from the increase of the population and the general improvement in the standard of comfort. Of white piece-goods as of twist and yarn, there were large stocks from the imports of previous years, and the imports were much restricted, but the fall in white goods was more than counterbalanced by a rise in grey and coloured goods. The net result was, however, disappointing considering the favourable character of the monsoon.

Cotton-goods and yarns.

Metals.

326. Imports of metals in the past year reached a higher value than in any previous year. In 1902-1903 all descriptions of metals shared in the increase, with the exception of lead and quicksilver. The imports of copper more than doubled in quantity, the reduction in price and the return of prosperity to the agricultural population creating a large demand. The positions of iron and steel have been to a certain extent reversed, the increase under steel being less than under iron.

The value of the trade in machinery and millwork decreased by 19 per cent., but the imports in the previous year were exceptionally large. The fall must be partly attributed to a general cheapening of the cost of production which follows necessarily from the continued introduction of devices for more economical working and partly to a decline in the price of coal during the past year. Among the descriptions more largely imported may be mentioned steam-engines and their component parts for mining purposes and for electric light plant. The largest fall was in jute machinery which decreased by 25 lakhs.

Sugar.

327. The average price of all refined sugar imported has continued to fall, the price per cwt. being Rs. 11-2-7 in 1899-1900, Rs. 10-13-1 in 1900-1901, Rs. 10-2-10 in 1901-1902 and Rs. 9-0-11 in 1902-1903. The quantity imported which exceeded a million and-a-half cwt. was, however, very little below the record imports of the previous year. This result is very remarkable in face of the fact that for three-quarters of the year the principal sources of supply of beet-sugar, namely, Austria-Hungary and Germany, were cut off by the imposition of additional countervailing duties to counteract the bounties created by the operations of the trade combinations known as Cartels. The deficiency of beet-sugar was, however, made good by a much larger importation of cane-sugar. The great increase of Javanese sugar, which is very cheap, is a feature of the year and large imports came from Hongkong. The growth of the great import trade in refined sugar has undoubtedly created in the country a permanent demand for clean sugar amongst people who formerly were acquainted only with the inferior product from native refineries; and a promising beginning has been made to adjust supply to demand by the establishment of a large refinery, with modern appliances, near Muzaffarpur in Bihar.

Petroleum.

328. The importations of kerosene-oil from Russia and the United States fell from 44 million gallons in 1901-1902 to 34 in the year under report. On the other hand, the imports of kerosene from Burma increased from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to $14\frac{2}{3}$ million gallons. The greatest fall was in Russian oil, attributed to the existence of large stocks at the commencement of the year, combined with rising prices in Russia and the increasing competition of the Burma product. There was an increase of kerosene oil from the United States, but the trade is less than one-eighth of what it was 12 years ago.

Woollen piece-goods.

329. There has been a marked decrease of trade in these goods. The value of the year's imports has declined by 28·8 per cent. The decrease is larger in the case of shawls than of piece-goods.

Salt.

330. The chief feature of the year was the reduction in duty on salt arriving from foreign ports from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2 per Indian maund. Imports of each during the year decreased by 22 per cent. in volume, but the previous year's receipts had been exceptional, and heavy stocks being carried forward, there was not much inducement to import, although prices ruled lower and freights were moderate. Of the foreign imports, 52·5 per cent. came from the United Kingdom.

Import trade of Calcutta with European countries.

331. The articles enumerated above constitute the bulk of the import trade at Calcutta, and it is unnecessary to notice in detail the other articles which enter into the trade, the items individually being of relatively small value.

About four-fifths of the value of the import trade of Calcutta represent in 1902-1903 the value of imports from Europe, British trade easily dominating, for to the extent of over two-thirds (69 per cent.) the import trade is from the United Kingdom. Russia has the largest trade with Calcutta of countries in Continental Europe, practically all of it being represented by kerosene oil, and Belgium follows not far behind with Germany next in the scale. Amongst Asiatic countries the largest part of the import trade is conducted with China, Ceylon and the Straits. The imports into Calcutta from the United States have fallen, as also those from Russia. Petroleum is the sole import from Russia and far the most important from the United States.

Exports of Merchandise.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1902-1903.]

332. The value of the export trade of the Province after a large advance in 1900-1901 and a smaller rise in the following year to over 55⅓ crores fell sharply in 1902-1903 to below 54 crores. This untoward result was largely due to the depression of the tea and indigo industries, the fall in the price of opium and a short crop of linseed.

Long as is the list of articles exported from Calcutta, the greater part of the value of the trade attaches to the few articles enumerated below (000's omitted):—

			Rs.
Jute, raw, Rs. 10,41,95 „ manufactured, „ 8,98,18	...	...	19,40,13
Tea	...	...	6,01,52
Opium	...	...	5,50,76
Hides and skins ...	...	...	4,56,37
Grain and pulse ...	...	...	4,60,35
Oilseeds ...	...	...	4,68,18
Indigo ...	...	...	65,98

Jute and Jute goods.

333. The value of jute and of the goods manufactured from it (gunny-bags and cloth) represents more than a third of the aggregate value of the foreign trade of Calcutta, and if account is taken of the great quantity of jute manufactures exported from Calcutta by rail and coastwise for the packing of Indian produce and the quantity used on the spot for the same purpose, the importance to the trade of Calcutta of the jute fields of Eastern Bengal and the jute mills established along the banks of the Hooghly is still more striking. A rough idea of the gross value may be formed by adding to the exports of raw jute the annual production of the jute mills which, according to a reliable estimate, cannot be less than 1,150 lakhs.

The exports of raw jute from Calcutta amounting to nearly 3·43 million bales, though smaller than in the previous year, were larger than they have been since 1897-98. The crop was not equal to that of the previous year either in area or outturn, and there was a consequent rise in price, but the value of the exports was still lower than in the previous year. On the other hand, the trade in the manufactured article has expanded. Direct shipments from Chittagong to foreign countries decreased by 25·2 per cent. under the preceding year, and formed about one-seventeenth of the total exports of raw jute. Manufactured jute in the form of gunny-bags and gunny-cloth was also exported actively, the quantity shipped of these manufactures being the highest on record, though the trade in bags was bigger in 1901-1902. The growth is most rapid in hessian cloth, for which there is an increasing demand, and there has been an increase of about 30 per cent. in the past two years in the number of looms imported for weaving it.

Tea.

334. If to the value of jute, raw and manufactured, is added the value of tea, it will be seen that nearly half the foreign trade of Calcutta is represented by these articles. Unfortunately, while the jute industry has in the main thriven and expanded, with profit on the whole to cultivators, manufacturers and middlemen, the tea industry has been passing through a phase of acute depression. The quantity exported, 171 million pounds, including nearly

20 million pounds from Chittagong, was very slightly smaller than the low exports of 1901-1902, but a disastrously low average of prices reduced the value by 15 per cent. The fall in price originating from over-supply in previous years was accentuated by expectations of another large crop. These anticipations proved unfounded, as the crop was smaller by 2·7 million lbs. than in the previous year, and when this was apparent prices advanced, but the change came too late to raise the average of the season. The outlook, however, remained brighter, as the desired equilibrium between supply and demand seemed to have been secured, first, by the limitation of the area at present or coming into bearing, and, secondly, by the exploitation of new markets, principally in America and Russia. Larger funds are now available for advertising and pushing the sale of Indian tea, which are derived from a compulsory customs duty or cess of one-quarter of a pie per pound charged on all tea exported from India after the 31st March 1903, and further relief is being given to the black tea market by the increasing manufacture of green tea. The sale of tea in India has also been vigorously pushed with satisfactory results.

Opium.

335. The exports of opium remained practically the same in quantity, but their value fell by 11·7 per cent. The average price of Bengal opium was, however, higher than was anticipated from a rapidly falling market, as towards the close of the year prices recovered.

Hides and Skins.

336. The most noticeable feature in this trade is the increase in price that has taken place in the raw article, both hides and skins. There was a decline in quantity of 4·34 per cent., but the gross value increased 2·10 per cent. Nearly 83 per cent. of the trade in raw skins is with the United States, where there is a great demand for the article for the manufacture of "chrome" leather.

Grain and Pulse.

337. Exports show a considerable expansion, having increased in quantity by 42·7 per cent., and in value by 26·3 per cent., but the figures are still below those for the years 1898-99 and 1899-1900, when there was a large export of both wheat and rice. All descriptions of food-grains shared in the increase, which was very marked in the case of wheat and the commoner cereals, but the exports of rice remained at a comparatively low level.

Oilseeds

338. Among oilseeds the exports of linseed are by far the largest, but the linseed crop was not up to the average, and the exports, which had been declining for years, decreased by 18·5 per cent. in volume and 21 per cent. in value. Of rapeseed, which is the next largest item, the exports from Calcutta improved in quantity by 264·5 per cent. and in value by 244·2 per cent. This crop was specially plentiful in the United Provinces, but disappointing in the Panjab.

Indigo.

339. Exports of indigo have declined seriously, both quantity and value falling by between 46 and 47 per cent. The year's shipments are the smallest since the year 1878-79. The trade has passed through the most disastrous cycle of years, the seasons being almost continuously and increasingly unfavourable and at the same time the competition of synthetic indigo forced down prices to an unremunerative level. The cultivation has consequently diminished, the reduction of acreage compared with the average of the previous five years being 70 per cent. in Lower Bengal and 33 per cent. in Bihar, but in the latter the contraction was also largely the result of insufficient moisture for sowings. Notwithstanding poor quality prices were rather better than in the previous year. The reduction of the exports of indigo is due partly to bad crops, but the restricted cultivation resulting from the fall in price, caused by the competition of synthetic indigo, is the real and abiding reason for the decline of the trade, for a reduced production of the natural dye no longer gives a compensating increase in price.

Coal.

340. The export trade in coal did not maintain the high level it suddenly acquired through the rise in the price of English coal in 1900. The quantity exported was 429,000 tons as against 524,000 tons in 1901-1902. The principal foreign markets supplied were Colombo, Singapore, Aden, Mauritius, Sumatra and East Africa. Bengal coal lost ground at Colombo and Aden through the competition of English coal, but maintained its position at Singapore. The result of the year's business is that the increase of the previous year, which shewed then a tendency to contract, has been converted into an actual decrease in the past year. The total exports, including bunker coal, amounted to 1,127,329 tons.

341. About 54 per cent. of the export trade of Calcutta is conducted with European countries, the United Kingdom taking about 31 per cent. of the whole. Of the Continental countries, Germany took almost as much as all the others combined. Of other countries the trade with the United States came next to that with the United Kingdom, and China, which occupied the fourth place, had a trade slightly less than that with Germany. Export trade of Calcutta with European countries.

Chittagong and Orissa Ports.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1902-1903, Foreign Trade of the Subordinate Ports.]

342. The running of a direct line of steamers (the Clan Line) from this port to the United Kingdom, coupled with the facilities for carriage afforded by the Assam-Bengal Railway, have caused a large increase in the foreign trade, the total value being 169·71 lakhs, against 159·75 lakhs in 1901-1902. The main features of the trade are indicated in the following table (00,000 in Rs. omitted):— Chittagong.

	Imports.			Exports.	
	1901-1902.	1902-1903.		1901-1902.	1902-1903.
Salt ...	2·40	3·23	Rice ...	5·25	11·41
Railway materials	8·43	7·75	Jute (raw) ...	87·51	66·31
Other articles ...	·40	5·76	Tea ..	55·59	75·01
			Other articles ...	·17	·19
Total ..	11·23	16·79			
			Total ...	148·52	152·92

343. The foreign trade of the Orissa ports is of no importance, and represented in merchandise a value of 29 lakhs in 1902-1903, against 29½ lakhs in the preceding year. The only article is rice, and nearly two-thirds of this was exported from Cuttack. Orissa Ports.

Frontier Trade.

[Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan for 1902-1903, Tables I and II.]

344. The trade with each of the trans-frontier countries in merchandise may be stated in the figures appended (lakhs of rupees):—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
Nepal	150·61	141·79	109·67	91·33
Tibet	7·93	9·63	7·24	8·11
Sikkim	5·06	3·43	3·20	2·74
Bhutan	5·11	4·16	1·37	1·16

The trade with Nepal is far the largest on the frontier, representing practically nine-tenths of the whole. Much of this is carried by rail to and from several localities in and near the Terai, whence is imported the rice and paddy which form the principal import from Nepal into Bengal.

The volume of trade in agricultural products naturally fluctuates according to the character of the season. Imports from Nepal were stimulated during the last twelve months by the removal of a temporary prohibition on food exports framed under the apprehension of scarcity.

Apart from 72 lakhs' worth of imports in grain and pulse, the principal imports are cattle, raw jute, linseed, spices, fruits and vegetables. There is an import of raw wool wholly from Tibet. The variations under each head do not appear to call for special comment. It is of interest to observe that a previously insignificant trade in fibrous products other than jute has suddenly swollen to a value of nearly three lakhs, owing to imports of *sabai* grass from Nepal for use in the manufacture of paper. The export trade consists largely of cotton yarn and piece-goods, of which but a small portion are the product of Indian factories. Together, Indian and Foreign cotton goods made up over 40 per cent. of the exports. The other articles of importance in the export list

are salt, metal, petroleum and provisions. A considerable reduction in the imports of salt into Nepal is alleged to be due to a duty recently imposed on that article by the Nepal State. The result has been to reduce imports by one-fifth.

Coasting Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1902-1903.]

345. Of this trade 87·6 per cent. of the value appertains to Calcutta, of which the actual figures were in Rs. (000's omitted):—

			1901-1902. Rs.	1902-1903. Rs.
Imports—				
Merchandise	...	...	4,77,93	4,84,57
Treasure	...	...	20,84	19,88
Exports—				
Merchandise	...	...	6,35,43	6,34,34
Treasure	...	...	81,65	1,15,95
	Total	...	12,15,85	12,54,74

The slight increase in the imports of merchandise was due chiefly to a much larger trade in raw cotton, cotton piece-goods and kerosene-oil from Burma, and also to larger imports of cocoanut-oil and spices from Madras and salt from Bombay. As a set-off against these increases, there was a decline in the trade of rice, paddy, and teakwood from Burma, and sugar from Madras. The larger transactions in treasure were chiefly in silver.

The increase in exports of merchandise was mainly due to larger shipments of jute manufactures, cotton goods, opium and spices. The most pronounced fall was in coal of 30½ lakhs equal to 20·8 per cent., exports to Bombay being less by 19¼ lakhs, and to Burma and Madras by 7½ lakhs and 6⅓ lakhs respectively, whilst supplies to Sind slightly increased. The larger exports of treasure were mainly in rupees sent to Burma.

Chittagong. 346. The total value of the coasting trade fell from 178½ lakhs to 113½ lakhs, or by 36·4 per cent. Imports declined from 121¾ to 71¾ lakhs, and exports from 56½ to 41¾ lakhs. The decrease in imports was chiefly in rice from Burma and jute from Narayanganj. On the other hand cotton goods from Calcutta advanced by 6½ lakhs, and oils, chiefly kerosene, from Burma improved by more than 5 lakhs in value. The only other increase of importance was in spices from Calcutta. Among exports treasure (rupees) declined in value from 28¾ to 12⅕ lakhs, which more than accounts for the fall in the total. As a set-off there were improvements in shipments of hides and skins and raw cotton.

Orissa Ports. 347. At Puri the trade was confined to rice exports amounting to Rs. 24,650, while Cuttack shows a merely nominal import, and an export which shrank nearly 66 per cent. and stood at a total value of only Rs. 22,293. The trade of Balasore advanced from 52 lakhs to 54⅘ lakhs, or by 5·4 per cent.

Railway and River Trade.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in Bengal in 1902-1903, Tables I and II.]

348. The total volume of this trade, the estimated value of it, and its main divisions are exhibited in the following table:—

		Trade of Calcutta with Bengal.		Trade of Calcutta with other Provinces.		Trade of Bengal with other Provinces, but not with Calcutta.	
		Import.	Export.	Import.	Export.	Import.	Export.
1901-1902	Mds.	14,42,16,892	2,77,98,743	1,79,39,686	77,24,166	2,00,71,110	3,05,05,375
	Rs.	41,84,63,065	23,44,17,087	13,59,63,017	10,91,30,525	8,25,37,988	7,54,89,197
1902-1903	Mds.	12,40,68,715	2,67,05,847	1,74,26,035	74,72,525	2,15,52,146	3,32,66,744
	Rs.	37,13,73,049	21,96,00,166	13,93,25,600	10,62,37,584	9,39,53,115	6,74,73,436

The value of the trade of Calcutta with Bengal represents 72 per cent. of the total imports and 67 per cent. of the total exports, and consists of the following principal articles in the order of relative importance imported into Calcutta from Bengal, namely, jute, rice, coal, opium, linseed, tea, hides and skins, grain and pulse, silk, gunny-bags and cloth, and indigo; and of articles exported from Calcutta to Bengal, cotton manufactures, salt, metals, sugar, railway plant and rolling-stock, and oils.

The trade of Calcutta with other Provinces is mainly with the United Provinces and with Assam, and consists of the following principal imports into Calcutta, namely, tea, oilseeds, opium, wheat, cotton, raw, ghi, gram and pulse, hides and skins, and woollen goods; and of exports from Calcutta cotton goods, metals and manufactures thereof, gunny-bags, salt, sugar, grain and pulse and oils.

Estimated by value the trade of Bengal with other Provinces by rail and river represents 30 per cent. of the total imports, and 16 per cent. of the total exports. The principal articles imported into Bengal from the United Provinces were sugar, oilseeds, opium, gram and pulse, wheat, and cotton goods chiefly; from Assam tea, coal, timber, hides and skins, and rice mainly; and from the Central Provinces, railway plant and rolling-stock and cotton manufactures (chiefly twist and yarn); while the chief exports from Bengal to the United Provinces consisted of coal, rice, kerosene, gunny-bags, sugar, railway plant and rolling-stock, tobacco, lac, metals and spices; to Assam of rice, spices, kerosene oil, and sugar; and to the Central Provinces of raw silk, sugar, coal, kerosene oil and rice.

Buildings and Roads.

[The details of outlay by the Public Works Department will be found in the Finance Accounts issued annually by the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.]

349. The total outlay during the year on works amounted to Rs. 1,18,13,611. The expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department on Imperial and Provincial Works was Rs. 12,81,846 and Rs. 55,69,350 respectively, making a total of Rs. 68,51,196. Rupees 49,62,415 were spent by the local authorities.

I.—IMPERIAL WORKS.

Military Works. Proof-range at Chandipur.

350. Several buildings in connection with the proof-range at Chandipur were completed during the year. The revetment wall originally proposed on the sea-face was completed, and an additional revetment wall, 600 feet in length, was in progress.

Civil Works. Secretariat Buildings.

351. Slow progress was made during the year with the combined Foreign and Military Secretariat Buildings, Calcutta, owing to the delay in the execution of the Mirzapur stone-work.

Currency.

352. Additions and alterations to strengthen the copper vaults of the Paper Currency Office, Calcutta, were in progress.

Surveyor-General's Office.

353. A two-storied building was constructed at the Surveyor-General's Office, Calcutta, for testing and adjusting instruments, and the copper-plate printing-room was extended. A temporary check station in connection with the Magnetic Survey of India was under construction at Barrackpore.

Post and Telegraph Offices.

354. Combined post and telegraph offices were constructed at Kishoreganj, Nagrakata, Purnea, Vishnupur, Angul, and Daltonganj, and one was in progress at Phulbani. Additional accommodation was provided in the office at Alipur. Additions and alterations to the Bettiah office were nearly half finished. Post-offices were built at Manickganj and Comilla, and the office at Contai was enlarged.

The telegraph office at Narayanganj was enlarged and improved. The combined office at Muzaffarpur was converted into a telegraph office. The telegraph office at Balasore was completed, and the Saidpur Telegraph Office was about two-thirds finished.

Opium.

355. Additions were made to the opium factory at Goolzarbagh, Patna. The construction of a building for the storage of opium was started at

Mahomedganj in the Palamau district. The bungalow known as the Planters' Medical Fund Bungalow at Motihari was purchased for the residence of the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent. Residences were under construction for the Assistant Opium Agents at Gaya and Tehta.

II.—PROVINCIAL WORKS.

Collectorates, etc.

356. Additions and alterations were carried out to the Purnea Collectorate. A court-room was provided for the Honorary Magistrates at Bankipore. The Deputy Magistrate's Court building at Comilla and the additional building for the Bhagalpur Collectorate were nearly finished. A new Certificate Office in continuation of the Road Cess Office was under construction at Burdwan. At Ranchi a Settlement Office and a building to accommodate the records of the Commissioner and of the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur was commenced. The additional record-room for the Deputy Commissioner's Court at Angul was completed. The Collector's record-room at Cuttack was extended, and an additional record-room for the Deputy Commissioner's cutcherry at Darjeeling was well advanced. Iron record-racks were erected in the Deputy Commissioner's office at Dumka. Similar racks were in progress in the Faujdari record-room of the Magistrate of Barisal. The new office for the Commissioner at Cuttack was completed. Special repairs were done to the Railway bungalow at Purulia, which was purchased for use as a circuit-house.

Civil Courts.

357. Good progress was made with the additions and alterations to the existing court buildings at Monghyr in order to provide the civil courts with the accommodation needed. The addition to the Judge's Court at Bhagalpur was completed. At Bankipore a new Judge's cutcherry was nearly finished. A new record-room was commenced for the Judge's Court at Barisal. Treble munsifis were constructed at Satkhira and Bagirhat, a double munsifi at Malda, and a single munsifi at Jamui. Improvements were carried out to the double munsifi at Jamalpur, in the Mymensingh district. An additional record-room and a shed for witnesses were provided for the munsif's court at Kalna. A double munsifi at Kishanganj, a single munsifi at Amta, and a court-house for one munsif at Chandpur were in progress. Extensions of the munsifs' courts at Bankura and Dantan and of the law courts at Chittagong for the accommodation of the third munsif's court were also in hand.

Subdivisional Courts and residences.

358. The court buildings at Gumla were finished. Three rooms were added to the subdivisional court at Diamond Harbour. Additions and alterations were made to the subdivisional courts at Kandi and Ranaghat. The Bettiah subdivisional court was enlarged. An extra room was built on to the court building at Bhabua, and an additional room was also under construction in the subdivisional court at Vishnupur. The record-room at Khurda was extended for the accommodation of the settlement records. The subdivisional court-house at Phulbani and the new subdivisional buildings at Kishanganj were well advanced. Residences were built for the Subdivisional Officers at Chandpur, Gumla, and Madhubani. Two residences were under construction at Phulbani and Sitamarhi.

Munsifs' residences.

359. Fifteen munsifs' residences were completed—three at Patya, Bagirhat, and Pirojpur, two at Hathhazari, one at Cox's Bazar, Iswarganj, and Gumla, and a second residence at Bhola in addition to the one erected in the previous year. A residence was under construction at Thakurgaon. Materials were collected for the construction of residences at Atia, Hatiya, and Hajipur—one at each place, and for two residences at Kishanganj.

Excise.

360. The southern vat-shed in the Russa distillery was reconstructed. Improvements were carried out in the buildings at Barisal and Bankipore. The buildings at Berhampore had some additions and alterations done to them. A ganja gola was built at Chinsurah, a gola was under construction at Kishorganj, and additions were being made to the golas at Naugaon.

Ecclesiastical.

361. A church was built at Mymensingh, and a tablet erected in the Memorial Church at Arrah to the memory of the British Officers and men who fell in action in the relief of the place in 1857. A new cemetery was opened at Asansol, and the Darjeeling cemetery extended by the preparation of another flat.

362. New barracks were built in the Mymensingh and Cuttack Jails. The extension of the ward for females and the erection of a new ward for male prisoners in the Chaibassa Jail were completed. Additions and alterations were carried out in the Noakhali Jail. Four barracks were in progress in the Dacca, Bankipore, Faridpur, and Rajshahi Jails, those at Dacca and Bankipore being nearly finished. The new hospital in the jail at Barisal was built up to plinth level. In the Bhagalpur Central Jail, all the cubicles in Barrack No. 2 were fitted up and the factory building extended. The water-supply scheme for the Midnapore Jail was finished. New subsidiary jails were constructed at Chandpur, Gumla, and Sasaram. The lock-up at Phulbani was almost completed. The wards and warders' quarters of the new lock-up at Kishanganj had advanced up to roof level. Extensions and improvements were carried out in the subsidiary jails at Bagirhat, Pirojpur, Pakaur, and Serajganj. Jails.

363. Land was acquired and a building erected thereon for the accommodation of the police of the Fenwick Bazar Thana, Calcutta. An outpost was constructed at Matiabruj. The old Dutch Barracks, Chinsura, were made suitable for the accommodation of "D" Company of the Military Police, the east range of the cook-houses in the compound of the Soldiers' Barracks being converted into family quarters for the native officers of the Company. The eastern barrack in the police lines at Muzaffarpur was rebuilt. The police thana at Gogri was completed and that at Phulbani was nearly finished. A new police-station at Siliguri was half finished and a new barrack was commenced for the Reserve Police at Daltonganj. Hospitals were erected for the police at Balasore and Midnapore. A room was added to the hospital at Hazaribagh, and an additional hospital ward was in progress in the police lines at Dinajpur. A police morgue was under construction at Mominpore. Police.

364. Additions and alterations were in progress at the Sanskrit College, Calcutta. At the Sibpur Engineering College, quarters were provided for two additional Foremen Instructors, a new barrack for the native students was almost finished, and an isolation hospital was under construction. In the Hooghly College, a hostel for the Hindu students was nearly completed and a Mansfield's oil-gas apparatus was supplied to the laboratory, which was being enlarged. The extension of the laboratory of the Krishnagar College was nearly finished. The Patna City School was completed. Additions were carried out to the Darjeeling High School and to the Khulna, Comilla, and Motihari Zilla Schools. Extra accommodation was in progress for the Daltonganj Zilla School and for the library of the Training School at Cuttack. The site for a new block for the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong, was prepared, and work in connection with the water-supply to the Victoria Boys' School at the same place was in progress. Educational.

365. At the Presidency General Hospital, the four blocks for contagious cases, the residence for the Surgeon-Superintendent and the quarters for the subordinate Medical staff were completed, and the separaiion ward for the treatment of inebriates and delirious cases was well advanced. A three-storied building to accommodate the Physiological, Pathological, and Bacteriological sections of the Medical College, Calcutta, was three-fourths finished. The sanitary conveniences and defective drainage of the Eden Hospital were remodelled. Almost all the buildings of the Central Lunatic Asylum, Berhampore, were completed. Quarters were provided for the matron of the Medical School, Cuttack. Six mortuaries were constructed, at Dinapore, Madhubani, Bagirhat, Satkhira, Bhagalpur, and Begusarai; three were nearly completed, at Aurangabad, Nawadah, and Tikari, and one was in progress at Malda. An office building was constructed for the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Bankipore, and a building was being erected for the office of the Civil Surgeon of Gaya. Medical.

366. The Purnea Registration office was completed. Additions were made to the Burdwan office. The extension of the office at Dacca was nearly finished. The construction of an office at Suri was taken in hand, as also the work of converting the cook-room of the old circuit-house at Purulia into a registration office. Registration.

367. A two storied building was constructed at the Medical College, Calcutta, in extension of the Shama Charan Law Eye Infirmary for outdoor eye-patients Contribution Works.

from the sum of Rs. 21,997 given by Rai Bahadur Amrito Nath Mitter. The wards for males and females in the new hospital, Muzaffarpur, were completed and the dispensary building nearly finished. The zanana hospital and operating room at Midnapore were also nearly completed. The new Diocesan School buildings, Darjeeling, were half finished. Additions were carried out to the Bhagalpur Zilla School. Two boarding-houses were constructed for the Purnea Zilla School. A hostel was built for the Chittagong Madrassa. Sites were acquired for the Ahsanulla Engineering School and the Dufferin Moslem Hostel at Dacca. Rupees 20,000 deposited by the Calcutta Tramways Company were expended in strengthening the girders of the Dum-Dum Bridge over the Circular Canal in order to permit of electric tram-car traffic.

Residences for officials.

368. Additions and alterations to the Collector's residence at Faridpur were carried out, and residences for the District Superintendent of Police, Bogra, and for the Civil Surgeon, Dinajpur, were almost finished. A house was constructed for the residence of the Collector of Puri. Houses were purchased at Krishnagar and Muzaffarpur for residences for the Collectors of those districts. Good progress was made with the Settlement Officer's quarters at Ranchi.

Miscellaneous.

369. Experimental borings on the Japanese "Kazusa" Artesian well system were carried out by Mr. F. J. Norman in the compound of the Presidency General Hospital and at Purulia. It was found that for the ordinary alluvial of the plains the method is not suitable.

A new ward was erected in the compound of the Government Workhouse for vagrants in Amherst Street, Calcutta. More cattle-sheds were under construction at the Bengal Veterinary Institution, Belgachia. The works in the Pilgrim Camp, Chittagong, were completed. The Natural History Museum in the Botanical Garden, Darjeeling, was finished. Trades Examination offices at Pedong and Rangpu were under construction.

Communications.

24-Parganas.

370. The construction of new diversion roads at the 3rd and 4th miles at Falwai on the Orissa Trunk Road was started, and earthwork and metal collection completed.

To improve the drainage of the tract of country between Dum-Dum and Barrackpore, additional waterway was provided in the Calcutta, Jessore, and Dum-Dum Cossipur roads. This was done by re-excavating the Bagjola khal and by constructing two bridges over the khal.

Darjeeling.

371. The Tista Valley road was seriously damaged by an exceptionally high flood in the Tista river during the month of September 1902. Long lengths of the road from the 13th to 24th miles, between Sivoke and Reang, were washed away, and portions between Reang and the Tista Bridge, 25th to 29th miles, were badly damaged. After examination of the road it was determined to abandon the length from Sivoke to Reang in favour of a new line higher up the hill and beyond the reach of floods. A trace and survey for the new alignment were well advanced. The length from Sivoke to Reang was temporarily repaired and made fit for cart traffic in the spring, this being urgently required for the Tibet Mission. The length from Reang to the Tista Bridge was opened to cart traffic in November 1902 and its permanent repairs well advanced.

The Darjeeling Hill Cart Road was again severely damaged by heavy rains that continued from August to October 1902, especially at the Pagla Jhora, where it has been so often damaged in previous years. The special repairs necessitated by these damages were practically completed.

The renewal of certain bridges on the Garidhura-Naxalbari, Matigara-Naxalbari, and Sukna-Adulpur roads was completed.

The suspension bridge across the Big Rangit river at Manjitar in the Darjeeling district was completed and opened to traffic.

The dead load on the platform of the Mahanadi bridge in the Rajshahi district was altered and reduced.

Three halting sheds on the Darjeeling Hill Cart Road were re-erected.

372. In the Jalpaiguri district, the construction of the Sulkapara-Taljhora and Ramsahaighat-Gairkata roads and the metalling of four miles of the Latiguri-Metali road from Chalsa to Metali were completed. Jalpaiguri.

The improvement of the first two miles of the Dam-Dim-Phulbari road, the construction of the Jainti-Rydak road, and the earthwork of the Odlabari-Manabari road were nearly finished, and the construction of the Rajabhat-Khowa-Jaigaon road was in progress.

The earthwork and bridges of the Gairkata-Birpara Road in the Jalpaiguri district were completed.

Inspection bungalows were erected at Gairkata and Bararhat, and rest-houses at Birpara and Dhuramari in the district of Jalpaiguri.

373. District roads from Barbigha to Sheikpura, from Serari to Chowriah, and from Jaimangla to Serari station, in the Monghyr district, were under construction. These roads will serve as feeders to the South Bihar Railway, and the District Board will contribute one-third of their cost. Monghyr.

374. The metalling and earthwork of the first section of the Cuttack-Dhenkanal-Angul road were completed. Very little progress was made with the construction of the district roads at Phulbani, owing to the failure of the contractor to supply bricks. The improvement of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road from the 67th mile to the end was in progress; the principal items of work done were repairs to the road from the 67th mile to the 28th mile; the culverts in miles 72 and 73; the earthwork and stone packing, where necessary, on miles 84 to 87 and on miles 90 to 97; the stone masonry culverts in mile 86 and stone masonry causeways in the 87th, 88th, and 89th miles. A fair-weather road from the Munchessur to the Nuapatna Ghat opposite Biranas Pint (Cuttack) was under construction. Cuttack and Angul.

375. For the purpose of opening out the south-western portion of the Ranchi district and affording a means of communication in the native State of Gangpur, the survey of the proposed road from Palkote to Kolinga was taken in hand and 55 miles out of the total length of 58 miles were surveyed and a fair alignment obtained; the road will act as a feeder to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Ranchi.

376. Fair progress was made in completing and metalling the nine miles of the Ranchi-Chaibassa road between Chakradharpur and Deogan. Singhbhum.

377. Flood repairs to the Orissa Trunk road were continued, and earth-work, soling, and metalling done. Balasore.

378. In the 20th mile of the Orissa Trunk Road, the masonry culvert No. 133 was replaced by an iron bridge: the bridge consists of steel trough flooring without girders, and has proved to be a very economical type of iron bridge for spans below 15 feet. Howrah.

379. The Konamara bridge on the Raniganj-Midnapore road in the district of Bankura was thoroughly repaired. Bankura.

380. Some wooden beams in the Durgaoti suspension bridge in the Shahabad district were renewed and four stone beams of the viaducts replaced by steel joists. Shahabad.

The south wing wall of the bridge over the Kudra in the Shahabad district, which was being undermined, was protected with bullah piling and packing.

381. The new dâk bungalow at Midnapore was practically completed. Midnapore.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

382. In celebration of The Coronation of Their Imperial Majesties, the Government buildings in Calcutta were effectively illuminated on the night of the 28th January 1903.

The residence for the Port Officer, Calcutta, above the Port Office in Strand Road, Calcutta, was completed.

The damage caused to the foreshore at Serampore by floods was made good.

Measures were adopted, as in previous years, for the protection of the Nawab's Palace at Murshidabad against the encroachment of the Bhagirathi river.

The protective works in Darjeeling station, which consisted of the repairing and making secure the jhoras, drains, hillsides, and roads, which were very seriously damaged by the cyclone of September 1899, were practically completed. Among the protective works carried out were those in the Kag Jhora and Cutcherry Jhora and in the Happy Valley slip. Some further work is still, however, required in Happy Valley to prevent the very large slip there from working further up the hill and endangering the safety of the buildings, roads, &c., in the station above it. The total approximate cost of all these protective works has been Rs. 8,50,000, practically the whole of which will be provided from Provincial Funds. The Rs. 8,50,000 above mentioned does not include the cost of restoring the Calcutta road (a provincial road), which will not be taken up for another year or two, or until after the St. Paul's slip, which it crosses, has ceased from slipping to the large extent it has been doing since 1899. The protective works were rather severely tested during the heavy rains of 1902, especially during the exceptionally heavy rain in October, and stood the test very well, only a few small slips having occurred here and there.

At Kurseong about three-fourths of the protective works in the jhora to the north of the Dow Hill Girls' School and in the jhora to the east of the Victoria Boys' School were completed.

Additional spurs were constructed along the bank of the Panar river at Araria, in the Purnea district, and the earthwork in the channel was about half finished.

A contract was executed on 16th May 1902 between Government in the Public Works Department and the Oriental Gas Company for the supply for ten years from the 1st of May of gas for the lighting of the Calcutta Maidan.

A license for the electric lighting of the Howrah Floating bridge was granted to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, from the 26th of November 1902: the license continues in force until the 20th of October 1918.

A license to supply electricity in the town of Howrah was granted to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited. The license commences from the 29th of October 1902 and continues until the 27th of October 1923.

A license for the electric lighting of Dacca was granted to the Dacca Electric Lighting Trustees for 21 years from 16th April 1902.

The Committee of Experts to decide on the steps to be taken for guarding aerial electric lines in Calcutta re-assembled and submitted their report on the 23rd May.

Establishment.

383. There have not been any important administrative changes during the year. The appointment of the Sanitary Engineer, Bengal, was, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, raised to the status of a Superintending Engineer's charge.

Railways and Tramways.

384. The Railways in the Province of Bengal may be divided into two classes—(1) Inter-Provincial—portions of the great Trunk lines, connecting Bengal with other Provinces; (2) Provincial—which provide for commnications in Bengal only. The former are all administered by the Government of India, and of the latter all those on the standard and metre gauge (with the exception of the Tarkessur and Deoghur lines) and the 2′ 6″ lines, which form part of the Eastern Bengal State Railway System, are also under the direct control of that Government.

The additions to the open mileage of the railways within the Province of Bengal made during the year were—

Standard Gauge.

	Miles.
East Indian Railway	93·69
Eastern Bengal State Railway	0·75
Bengal Nagpur Railway	119·77
Total Standard gauge ...	214·21

Metre Gauge.

Eastern Bengal State Railway	23·29
Bengal-Duars Railway	32·46
Bengal and North-Western Railway	3·75
Total Metre gauge ...	59·50

Among the events of the year the following are worthy of notice:—

Alternative line to the Jherria Coal-fields and to Northern India.

385. As a result of the recommendation of the Committee, noticed in the Administration Report for 1901-1902, which investigated the question of the entry of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway into the Jherria Coal-fields and the provision of an independent access to Calcutta from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, the construction of the undermentioned projects received sanction:—

(1) To be undertaken by the East Indian Railway Company—Manpur (Gaya) to Hariharpur; Katrasgarh to Khanoodih; Jherria to Dhanbaid; northern half of the Mulkera-Katrasgarh cross connection, and Tasra siding.

(2) To be undertaken by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company—Bhojudih to Hariharpur. Bhojudih to Parthadihi. Bhojudih to Mhoda Bhaga connection; southern half of the Mulkera-Katrasgarh cross connection, and Bhowra siding.

Through booking of goods traffic was introduced between the Eastern Bengal State Railway and the Bengal Nagpur Railway *vid* Dock Junction and the Shalimar Wagon Ferry from the 10th April 1902.

Important works completed during the year 1902 were—

Bengal and North-Western and Tirhut State Railway.

The Kosi bridge, consisting of 15 spans of 200 feet girders, near Katihar on the Tirhut section of the Bengal North-Western Railway, and the permanent Gogra bridge, consisting of 18 spans of 200 feet girders, at Turtipur.

Bengal Nagpur Railway.

The Wagon Ferry, between Shalimar and Kidderpore, and the doubling of the line between Santragachi and Bauria, a distance of $10\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

Eastern-Bengal State Railway.

The Dharlla bridge, consisting of 10 spans of 150 feet girders, at Moghalhat.

East Indian Railway.

The Amanat bridge, consisting of 7 spans of 100 feet girders, on the Daltonganj extension and the triplication of the line between Boinchee and Debipur, 2·20 miles in length.

The construction by the Eastern Bengal State Railway of a line on the 5 feet 6 inches gauge from Ranaghat station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway to Murshidabad on the left bank of the Bhagirathi River, a distance of about 80 miles, received the sanction of the Secretary of State.

The Government of Bengal expressed its views to the Government of India on the following questions:—

(1) The general revision of the terms for the construction, outside the Government of India "Programme," of branch or feeder lines of railway by private enterprise, the desirability of the construction of such lines by local District Boards from taxes expressly levied for the purpose, and their financing.

(2) The project for the construction of the Ranaghat-Godagari-Katihar Railway. The Bengal Government considered the line was necessary; that the line should, north of the Ganges, be on the metre gauge; that a bridge over the Ganges should be constructed

at Sara, and that the lines south of the Ganges should be board gauge. The construction of a line from Lalgola to Ranaghat was deemed of less importance than a bridge over the Ganges with a direct line from Katihar to Sara, which should be constructed first: if a bridge were constructed at Sara, a bridge over the Bhagirathi between Azimganj and Murshidabad was not of sufficient importance to justify the outlay.

(3) The alignment for the proposed Bankura-Calcutta Railway over the Damodar. Regarding this, the opinion of the Bengal Government was that there was no objection to closing the old channel of the Damodar by the railway embankment, provided arrangements were made for allowing a portion of the water to pass back to the old channel below the bridge, the Government of Bengal being willing to take over and maintain the channel and embankment on completion.

386. The railway from Mansi to Baptiahi was still under the consideration of the Secretary of State.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The following surveys were completed during the year:—Bankura-Calcutta chord, 130 miles in length, 5′ 6″ gauge—

Eastern Bengal State Railway.

(1) Chitpur terminal improvements, including branches to Cossipur Road and Ultadingi, 4 miles; (2) a chord line from Narculdanga to a point of junction with the main line south of Gobra Road over-bridge on the southern section, 1·69 miles; (3) a chord line from Kancoorgachi block station to a point of junction with the main line near No. 3 over-bridge on the southern section, 2·26 miles,—all on the 5′ 6″ gauge.

East Indian Railway.

Lines from (1) Ondal to Bancola, 7·10 miles; (2) mile 170 7/8 on the Jherria branch to Chandore, 4·16 miles; (3) Bhagalpur to Barari Ghât, 2·14 miles; (4) Tasra siding, 2·36 miles; and (5) reconnaissance survey from Gaya to Katwa, 250¼ miles,—all on the 5′ 6″ gauge.

The following survey is in progress:—A line from Hariharpur to Asansol, 52·35 miles, on the 5′ 6″ gauge.

387. The railways in Bengal administered by the Government of Bengal were as detailed in last year's report.

Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway.

The total gross earnings during the year amounted to Rs. 8,50,280 and the working expenses to Rs. 4,72,424. There was an increase in gross earnings over the previous year of Rs. 62,189, due mainly to an increase in goods traffic. Working expenses show a slight decrease as compared with the previous year. The increase in train mileages was due to an increase in traffic. The percentage of net earnings on capital outlay was 11·04, against 9·02 in the previous year.

Deoghur Railway.

Compared with the previous year there was a large decrease both in passenger and goods traffic. The percentage of net earnings on capital outlay was 2·5, against 6·76 in the previous year.

Tarkessur-Mugra Light Railway.

There was an increase in passenger and goods traffic. The percentage of net earnings on capital outlay was 2·54, against 2·04 in the previous year.

Howrah-Amta Light Railway.

There was an increase in passenger and goods traffic, the net earnings being 10·49 per cent., against 9·53 per cent. on the capital outlay of the previous year.

Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway.

There was a slight increase in passenger and goods traffic. The net earnings amounted to 5·20 per cent. as against 3·80 per cent. the year before.

Ranaghat-Krishnaghur Light Railway.

There was an increase both in passenger and goods traffic. The net earnings amounted to 2·84 per cent. as against 2·03 per cent. the year before.

The construction of the Bihar-Buktiarpur Light Railway and the extension of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway from Jagatbalabpur to Champadanga made very satisfactory progress during the year.

The Government of India sanctioned the extension of the Tarkessur-Mugra Light Railway to Tribeni with a free grant of the land required to the old Company by the Bengal Government, and the survey of the extension was completed.

The construction of a light railway, 26 miles long, from Baraset, a station on the Bengal Central Railway, to the town of Basirhat, within the 24-Parganas district, on 2′ 6″ gauge, was under consideration.

Canals.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1902-1903.]

388. The transactions of the Irrigation Department for the year 1902-1903 are exhibited in the following statements, so far as they relate to works of Irrigation and Navigation :— Capital and Revenue outlay.

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1902-1903.	Expenditure to end of 1902-1903.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1903.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Protective Irrigation Works—				
Direct charges	41,95,223	3,70,565	8,10,472	33,84,751
Indirect do.	94,661	8,757	17,674	76,987
Total ...	42,89,884	3,79,322	8,28,146	34,61,738
Major Irrigation Works—				
Direct charges	6,26,95,276	37,023	6,25,97,440	97,836
Indirect do.	17,60,720	1,254	17,56,906	3,814
Total ...	6,44,55,996	38,277	6,43,54,346	1,01,650
Minor Works and Navigation—				
Direct charges	1,35,45,709	3,65,367	1,27,88,523	7,57,186
Indirect do.	3,22,559	8,581	3,33,828	(—)11,269
Total ...	1,38,68,268	3,73,948	1,31,22,351	7,45,917

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working Expenses.		Total working expenses.	Net Revenue.
		Direct charges.	Indirect charges.		
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works ...	21,14,356	10,61,402	88,282	11,49,684	9,64,672
Minor Works and Navigation	5,33,010	4,44,914	12,562	4,57,476	75,534

The classification of the works dealt with in this chapter is as described in the Report for 1901-1902.

ORISSA CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

389. The expenditure (direct charges) charged to the Capital account of the Orissa Canals during the year was Rs. 45,543. The total Capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stands at Rs. 2,59,30,651. Capital account.

390. During the year the following works were in progress :—

The construction of the Dudhai Canal was proceeded with. The building occupied by the Superintending Engineer as his residence was purchased by Government at a cost of Rs. 5,500, and thorough repairs to the building were taken in hand. The construction of a new office for the Superintending Engineer having been sanctioned, materials were collected. The construction of a minor distributary from No. 12 Distributary, Taldanda Canal, in progress from last year, was completed. The extension of two Distributaries of the Machgong Canal was commenced, as also a minor at Kantaballabhpur

from the same Canal. Two hundred and seventy-eight permanent outlets were constructed.

Lengths of Canals, &c.

391. The lengths of Canals and Distributaries that were in operation at the end of the year were :—Canals for Irrigation and Navigation, 204¾ miles, Canals for Irrigation only, 75 miles, Distributaries and minor channels, 1,144¼ miles, 11½ miles of Distributaries being added during the year.

Irrigation.

392. Rainfall for the year was above the average though deficient in October, which led to a large number of irrigation leases being taken. The area irrigated was 224,998 acres, against 201,894 acres in the preceding year. The increase of 23,104 acres was distributed over practically all the Canals. The cash realizations on account of water-rates during the year were Rs. 2,97,518, against the demand of Rs. 2,99,181. There was, however, a considerable sum outstanding on account of irrigation of areas for which the leases had not been completed within the year.

Navigation Receipts.

393. The Navigation receipts were Rs. 68,617, against Rs. 78,153 in 1901-1902. The traffic on the Canals has diminished, owing to competition by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. It seems probable, however, that the lowest point has now been reached.

Financial results.

394. The revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Canals during the year were Rs. 4,03,848 and Rs. 3,89,204 respectively, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 14,644 against a deficit of Rs. 77,838 in the year preceding.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

Capital Account.

395. Expenditure amounting to Rs. 2,309 was incurred during the year on the work of constructing 17 permanent outlets of Distributaries in No. 4 subdivision. The total capital expenditure (direct charges) on the Canal to the end of the year was Rs. 82,92,597.

Length of Canals, &c.

396. The lengths of main Canal, Distributaries and village channels remained the same as recorded last year.

Irrigation.

397. The total area irrigated by this Canal was 87,464, as compared with 82,134, acres in the previous year. The greatest demand occurred at the end of the irrigation season, when the whole discharge of the river was utilised. Irrigation was practically completed by the first week of November. The crops on the irrigated area were generally good.

The cash realizations on account of water-rates were Rs. 1,34,962, against the demand of Rs. 1,37,290, the amount remitted being Rs. 441.

Navigation receipts.

398. The navigation receipts were Rs. 70,471, against Rs. 89,835 in the preceding year. The Bengal-Nagpur Railway is attracting more of the Canal traffic each year. The Calcutta Steam Navigation Company withdrew their steamer service from 1st July 1902.

Financial results.

399. The Revenue and Working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Canal for the year 1902-1903 were Rs. 2,23,678 and Rs. 1,52,452 respectively, resulting in a net revenue of Rs. 71,226 which is better than that of the previous year by Rs. 2,157.

Under the head "Extensions and Improvements," which are charged to the Revenue account, the principal work carried out during the year was the remodelling of the Panchkura Anicut at a cost of Rs. 8,725.

Under "Maintenance and Repairs" the chief item was the fitting of 121 self-acting crest shutters on the Midnapore Anicut, which was completed during the year, at a total cost of Rs. 5,767. The shutters worked satisfactorily.

Hijili Tidal Canal.

Financial Results.

400. There was no outlay on the Capital account during the year, the total of which (direct charges) now stands at Rs. 25,51,641. The Navigation receipts were Rs. 39,460, against Rs. 45,909 in the preceding year. The total receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 41,950 and Rs. 36,265 respectively, against Rs. 47,925 and Rs. 29,955 for the preceding year. The result was a net revenue of Rs. 4,785, against Rs. 17,970 in 1901-1902.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

401. There was no outlay chargeable to the Capital account during the year. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) has been Rs. 43,72,764. The whole length of the canal, viz., 129¾ miles, was open to traffic throughout the year. The Navigation receipts were Rs. 30,677, against Rs. 44,296 in the preceding year. The receipts from Tolls continue to decline, and there seems little hope that they will improve, as the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has absorbed a large share of the traffic. It is proposed to decrease the tollage rates in order to stimulate local traffic. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 34,666 and Rs. 46,165 respectively, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 11,499, against a deficit of Rs. 7,947 in the previous year. **Orissa Coast Canal.**

402. Considerable progress was made with the improvement of the Madaripur Bhil route for steamers. Some outlay was incurred on the scheme for a canal from Dhappa to Bamonghatta. This project has been abandoned in consequence of the objection to excluding the tidal water from the Salt Lake, and the great expense of works which would be required to admit the tide water under the Canal. A project for the canalization of Tolly's Nala is under consideration. **Calcutta and Eastern Canals.**

The Capital outlay (direct charges) for and up to the end of the year 1902-1903 was Rs. 3,63,857 and Rs. 70,67,907 respectively. The aggregate length of channels opened for navigation has been increased from 735 to 1,127 miles by the addition of 392 miles of navigable rivers and channels in the steamer route which have been brought under the Canals Act during the year. The Navigation Receipts were Rs. 3,63,297, against Rs. 3,72,804 in the preceding year.

The decrease in the gross receipts was due partly to the general depression in trade, but mainly to the jute crop being short. The Canal traffic was also affected by the competing railways. There was a decrease in the number of steamers and flats using the Sunderbans route. As to the goods carried on the canals, there was a marked decrease in jute, firewood, salt, coal and empty boats, and a small increase in spices and kerosene oil.

The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 3,76,764 and Rs. 2,36,358 respectively, resulting in a net revenue of Rs. 1,40,406 against the net revenue of Rs. 1,20,336 in the preceding year.

403. The approximate lengths of the channels comprised in the Nadia rivers continued practically the same as detailed in the Report for 1901-1902. **Nadia Rivers.**

No Capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year 1902-1903 were Rs. 91,003 and Rs. 1,20,311 respectively, as against Rs. 86,177 and Rs. 1,09,862 in the preceding year. The Navigation receipts were Rs. 90,783, against Rs. 86,285 in the preceding year. A scheme for improving the channel of the Bhagirathi river in the dry season is under consideration.

404. The cost of maintaining this khal amounted to Rs. 623, as compared with Rs. 348 in the previous year. The receipts were Rs. 5,200, giving a net revenue of Rs. 4,577. **Gaighatta and Baxi Khal.**

405. The total length of the Eden Canal is 45⅛ miles. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 24,497 and Rs. 39,678 respectively, against Rs. 28,838 and Rs. 42,379 in the preceding year. The area irrigated during the year was 27,767 acres, against 28,141 acres in the preceding year. The cash realizations during the year on account of water-rates were Rs. 23,574 against the demand of Rs. 38,252; a sum of Rs. 2,619 was remitted, leaving a balance at the end of the year of Rs. 12,059. **Eden Canal.**

SONE CIRCLE.

406. A survey was commenced, in order to determine if a project for a large reservoir in the valley of the Karamnassa river is practicable. **Protective Work.**

Major Irrigation Works.

SONE CANAL.

407. The lengths of Canals and Distributaries in operation at the close of the year were the same as in the previous year. The total outlay (direct charges) up to end of 1902-1903 stands at Rs. 2,58,22,551. **Length of Canals, etc.**

Rainfall.

408. The average rainfall registered at 12 stations was 35·24 inches, as compared with an average of 26·55 inches in the previous year. There was short rainfall in June, delaying ploughing and planting of seed-beds. In July and August good rain fell, and there was heavy general rain on the 25th September, the first day of the *hathiya* which was very beneficial to the crops, and prevented any great demand for Canal water during that asterism. During the cold season there was no rain, but the heavy rainfall in September sufficed for sowing, and for the growth of the crop, so there was a comparatively small area of *rabi* leased for Canal irrigation.

Irrigation.

409. The area irrigated during the year under review was 483,567 acres, against 557,494 acres in the previous year. The area under long lease at the end of the year under report was 339,449 acres, against 317,317 acres at the end of the last year. The areas under *kharif* and hot weather show an increase over last year, but under *rabi* there is a large drop.

The cash realizations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 13,78,951, against the demand of Rs. 13,81,779. The remission for the year being Rs. 2,828, there was no balance outstanding at the end of the year. The large increase of revenue is mainly due to the larger area of *rabi* irrigation of 1901-1902, the rates of which were collected in this year, and in part to the increase of the rate for long leases and for hot-weather irrigation. That the amount has been fully collected without any increase of establishment is highly creditable to the staff generally.

Navigation Receipts.

410. The Navigation receipts during the year were Rs. 18,587, against Rs. 23,595. The traffic on the Canals continues to decrease owing to the competition of the Moghulserai-Gaya-Lakhiserai branch of the East Indian Railway. The question of reducing tolls to attract traffic is under consideration.

Financial Results.

411. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 14,45,780 and Rs. 5,71,763, respectively, against Rs. 11,36,593 and Rs. 5,96,460 in the previous year.

Closures of Canals.

412. There were no closures of the Canals, specially for repairs, though the Eastern Main Canal system had to be closed in May and June for want of a sufficient supply in the Sone river.

GANDAK CIRCLE.

Protective Works.

413. The works under this head are the Tribeni and Dhaka Canal projects. The total expenditure during 1902-1903 was Rs. 3,70,565, of which Rs. 15,657 were spent in England. The net expenditure in India amounted to Rs. 3,54,908, of which Rs. 83,572 were spent on the Dhaka Canal and Rs. 2,71,336 on the Tribeni Canal.

Tribeni Canal.

414. The excavation of the foundation for the head sluice, the collection of materials for the syphons under Burra Bhabsa and Chota Bhabsa, and the foundations of the syphon under the Masan in 35th mile, were in progress when the year closed.

The Sectional Officer's quarters at Sidhao were completed, and the residence for the Subdivisional Officer at Ramnagar was nearly completed. The office building for the Subdivisional Officer at Ramnagar was commenced. Temporary sheds at head were completed.

Portions of the Canal in miles 1, 5 to 7, 10, 12, 14 to 17, 19 to 21 and 34 were excavated.

Dhaka Canals.

415. The excavation of the main Canal and of the Seeraha and Patahi Branches was completed. The head sluice and weir on the Lal-Bukya river were three-fourths completed. Bridges at 91 and 127 chains of the main Canal, and those for the Patahi Branch, except the one near the head, were completed. The regulators on the Seeraha and Patahi branches were also completed, and materials collected for the bridges on the Seeraha branch.

The Sectional Officer's quarters at Dhaka and at the head as also the Inspection bungalow at Dhaka were completed.

The construction of the residence and office buildings for the Superintending Engineer, Gandak Circle, at Muzaffarpur, and for the Executive Engineer, Champaran Division, at Motihri, the estimates for which were sanctioned in the preceding year, was taken in hand, and the greater portion of the main buildings was completed during the year under report, at an outlay, in the case

of the Superintending Engineer's residence and office, of Rs. 28,172, and of the Executive Engineer's residence and office of Rs. 27,800.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

Saran Canals.

416. The Irrigation from the Saran canals, which had been in progress at the close of the preceding year, was continued up to May 1902 for *rabi*. On the failure of the *hathiya* rains in September, the Canals were again reopened, under the orders of Government, to supply water free of cost for rice irrigation. The total areas irrigated during the *rabi* and *kharif* seasons were roughly estimated at 500 and 3,911 acres, respectively. The canal ceased to supply water in November, owing to the failure in the supply in the Sota.

The maintenance of the canals cost Rs. 3,223 (direct charges) against Rs. 6,746 in the previous year, and the revenue derived from them amounted to Rs. 674, against Rs. 1,108 of the previous year.

Madhuban Canal.

417. The Madhuban (Teur) Canal worked 139 days during the year under report, and the total area irrigated was 2,058 acres, against 5,397 acres in the preceding year.

The Canal was maintained in good order at a cost of Rs. 10,916, against Rs. 4,587 of the preceding year, and the revenue derived from the sale of grass, &c., was Rs. 206 against Rs. 196 in the preceding year.

The Canal was constructed in 1879, but no Distributaries were made, and it is therefore difficult to distribute the water. During the famine of 1896-97, the question of constructing Distributaries from the Canal was taken up, and the land required for the Lakhowra Distributary was acquired, and a certain portion of the earthwork was done by famine labour. The Distributary, which is now under construction, takes off from the Canal at 1 mile 2,100 feet right, and will be a little over 6 miles in length. It will command about 15 square miles of the country.

To ensure satisfactory irrigation a certain number of minor channels will be constructed. It is proposed to charge water-rates when the construction of the distributary is completed.

Embankments and Drainage.

General.

418. The public embankments in Bengal are—

1st.—Embankments which are maintained at the public expense.

2nd.—Embankments maintained by Government at the cost of the persons interested.

Of the first description there are—

A.—The embankments in the Cuttack, Puri and Balasore districts of Orissa, which are maintained under Act XXXII of 1855.

B.—The embankments enumerated in Schedule D of Act VI (B.C.) of 1873, among which are included those of the Burdwan Raj Estate taken over by Government in 1804, and some additional lengths which have at various times been added to the schedule under the provisions of section 43 of Act II (B.C.) of 1882, as also four small embankments in the Pabna, Bogra, Purnea and Muzaffarpur districts.

Of the second description there are—

C.—The embankments of which the cost of maintenance is recovered from the persons interested by the payment of a fixed annual charge under a contract extending over a term of years as provided for in sections 63-68 of Act II (B.C.) of 1882.

D.—The embankments the cost of maintenance of which is recovered from the persons interested by an annual apportionment of the actual charges.

The total length of embankments maintained during the year was 2,159 miles, protecting an area of 8,906,462 acres. The total expenditure incurred on works and repairs on embankments and on drainage works was Rs. 5,13,748, of which Rs. 4,50,022 were spent on embankments. The most serious floods of the year occurred in the Gandak, the Bur Gandak and the Damodar rivers.

In Part I of the Report for 1901-1902, it was stated that Mr. Horn's report on the possibility of adopting remedial measures to mitigate the damage frequently caused by floods in the Damodar river was under the consideration of Government. During the year Government informed the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division of the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Horn, and added: "The Lieutenant-Governor accepts Mr. Horn's recommendations and conclusions unreservedly, though with him His Honour regrets that no scheme of relief has been found which is within the practical resources of the State. In the opinion of His Honour the figures and conclusions in the papers enclosed are incontrovertible, and the Government has no alternative but to accept the situation and to confine the action of its officers to such minor measures as may be, from time to time, practicable to lessen the injurious action of the inundations to which the country is liable owing to the action of natural causes which are beyond human control."

Original works.

419. The outlay of the year on original works amounted to Rs. 78,177, of which Rs. 23,613 were spent on class A Embankments and Rs. 54,564 on class B Embankments.

The more important of the works in hand are briefly noticed as follows:—

In the Orissa Circle the works in progress were the extension of No. 88 Embankment on the right bank of the Birupa river, the construction of a tie bund at Charigaon and the closing of the Palshaighai or breach in the right bank of Kharasua river by a dam combined with a paved escape weir to accommodate the surplus flood discharge. The works completed were a rubble weir across the Similiaghai on the right bank of the Kharasua, an embankment on the left bank of the Byturni at Anandpur, and the enlargement of the Rampa Inspection bungalow.

In the South-Western Circle, Rs. 11,973 were expended during the year on remodelling the Mohunpur-Kharagpur road in the Midnapore district. The total expenditure on the work up to 31st March 1903 was Rs. 35,864 against the sanctioned estimate for Rs. 48,371. Half the cost is borne by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The reconstruction of the Shaikpur Inspection bungalow was nearly completed.

A channel from Isufabad to Lakurdi to drain the swamp on the left bank of the Banka above the Kanchannagar weir in the Burdwan district was excavated during the year at a cost of Rs. 10,184. On the retired line of sea dyke at Chandpur, in the Balasore district, Rs. 18,278 were spent during the year. The total expenditure up to 31st March 1903 was Rs. 79,130. The work of providing draw shutters in the old sluices of the embankment between Contai and Masagaon was completed during the year. A bungalow at Chowdochooly on Schedule D Embankment No. 45, which was accidentally burnt by fire, was reconstructed, and 1,626 pucka boundary pillars were constructed along the Bhagirathi and Rampur Boalia Embankments and on the Bhagwangola retired line in order to demarcate the Government lands.

In the Gandak Circle an estimate amounting to Rs. 20,919 was sanctioned for constructing a sluice in the Bazitpur Embankment in the Darbhanga district, but work was not commenced within the year. In the Malda district a double spur, 85 feet long with 580 feet bamboo piling, was constructed. In the Purnea district spur No. I along the bank of the Panar river at Araria was extended, and six new spurs were constructed and bamboo bank piling made between each spur.

Ordinary Repairs.

420. The expenditure on repairs aggregated Rs. 3,77,762. The expenditure, on the whole, was normal. In the district of the 24-Parganas the outlay on retired lines was considerable (Rs. 30,429). This was mainly due to the construction of a retired line at Kantebaria on the left bank of the Hooghly on which Rs. 22,737 were spent during the year. In the Midnapore district the outlay in connection with Schedule D Embankments on retired lines was Rs. 20,816, and on making good breaches and special repairs due to high floods, Rs. 28,788. The expenditure on the embankments maintained by Government in the estates of the Burdwan Raj in the districts of Hooghly, Burdwan, Birbhum and Midnapore amounted to Rs. 1,49,519, against Rs. 1,42,323 in the previous year.

The contract between Government and the zamindars for the maintenance of the Takavi Embankments (Class C) in the Midnapore district has

been renewed for a period of 15 years from 1st April 1904 at an annual charge of Rs. 49,701 (including Establishment) against the charge of Rs. 55,297 in the previous contract.

The contracts for the maintenance of the Tirhut and Champaran Embankments on the left bank of the Gandak river have also been renewed for a period of 20 years from 1st April 1903, the annual charge for the former being the same as formerly, viz., Rs. 10,415, and the charge for the latter having been raised from Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 20,000.

On the D class Takavi Embankments the total outlay incurred during the year on repairs (inclusive of river protective works) was Rs. 4,469, against Rs. 11,130 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 6,661.

Breaches.

421. In the Orissa Circle, no breaches of any importance occurred during the year owing to the absence of very high floods in the rivers. A few small breaches which occurred owing to local causes were promptly closed. The amount expended was Rs. 3,079. In the South-Western Circle the total expenditure incurred for closing the breaches and for executing flood damage repairs to the embankments in the Burdwan, Hooghly, Midnapore, 24-Parganas and Balasore districts was Rs. 56,411 against Rs. 43,799 in the previous year. In the Gandak Circle Charki No. 2 of the Saran Embankment was overtopped and breached during the high flood in the Gandak river in August 1902. No breaches occurred in the Champaran and Tirhut Embankments. There were no breaches in the embankments in the Sone, Northern and Bhagalpur Circles.

Retired lines.

422. In the Orissa Circle the amount expended during the year on retired lines of embankments was considerably less than that of the previous year, being Rs. 4,178 against Rs. 7,732. In the South-Western Circle the total expenditure incurred during the year for constructing retired lines in the Burdwan, Hooghly, Midnapore, Murshidabad, 24-Parganas and Balasore districts was Rs. 79,176, against Rs. 51,995 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 27,181. The increase took place in the Burdwan, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and Balasore districts. In the Gandak, Sone, Northern and Bhagalpur Circles no retired lines were constructed during the year.

River Protective Works.

423. In the Orissa Circle, the total outlay incurred during the year on repairs to the revetments and river protective works was less than usual, being Rs. 5,341, against Rs. 13,491 in the preceding year, and Rs. 10,714, the average of the previous five years. In the Gandak Circle, no new protective works for any of the embankments were required during the year.

Financial.

424. The actual outlay during the year on the Orissa Embankments (Class A) maintained as agricultural works, exclusive of charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant, was Rs. 41,400, against Rs. 56,449 in the previous year, the average rate per mile being Rs. 80 against Rs. 110. The expenditure on class B Government Embankments was Rs. 2,85,941, against Rs. 2,37,636, or at the average mileage rate of Rs. 260 against Rs. 216 in the previous year.

Government maintains embankments on behalf of the persons benefited at a fixed annual charge in the districts of Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Midnapore. The total charges debited to these embankments during the year were Rs. 1,25,679, of which Rs. 36,785 were incurred in the Midnapore district, Rs. 49,200 in the Saran district, Rs. 12,744 in the Champaran district, and Rs. 26,950 in the Muzaffarpur district.

Works under the provisions of the Drainage Act, VI (B.C.) of 1880.

425. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapore and Burrajalla Drainage Works in the Hooghly district in charge of the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, were maintained in good order during the year. The cost of their maintenance was Rs. 11,193. The sluices were used during the year both for irrigation and drainage purposes, and fairly good crops were obtained from the whole of the areas assessed. The income derived during the year from land rent, fisheries, tolls on boats and other sources was Rs. 10,313.

Drainage Works carried out at the cost of Government but not under the provisions of the Drainage Act.

426. There was no expenditure on original works during the year. On the Bullee bhil in the Northern Drainage and Embankment Division Rs. 4,074 were spent during the year for repairing and maintaining the escape weirs, sluices, regulators, etc. In the Cossye Division Rs. 4,089 were expended on clearing silt from the Balliaghai Main Drain and Rs. 321 on maintenance and repairs to bungalows, etc. The total expenditure incurred on silt-clearance of the 10 khas tahsil khals in the Balasore Division maintained by this Department was Rs. 5,665, against Rs. 7,057 in the previous year.

Drainage works carried out under the provisions of the Embankment Act, II (B.C.) of 1882.

427. The amounts expended during the year on original works were as follows:—The Khoyra sluice in the Cossye Division was completed at a cost of Rs. 1,296. The silt-clearance of the Protapkhally khal was completed at a total outlay of Rs. 24,235. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 21,590. The Telipukar sluice in mile 144 of the Sundarbans Embankment (Schedule D, No. 80) was taken in hand, and Rs. 2,806 were expended on it during the year. The excavation of the Samookpota sluice channel was completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 244. The total amount expended on the construction of the sluice and channel was Rs. 6,072. An estimate amounting to Rs. 20,172 for clearing silt from the Kunjapur khal in the Midnapore district was sanctioned, and will be taken up in the current year.

On maintenance and repairs the following amounts were expended during the year:—

Repairs to the Dainan sluice, cost Rs. 693. The Churrial khal drainage sluice and 16 other sluices in the Schedule D Embankments in the 24-Parganas district were efficiently maintained at an aggregate cost of Rs. 5,716.

On the protective works for the Tangrabichi sluice in the 24-Parganas district Rs. 5,792 were expended during the year. The drainage works described above are all in the South-Western Circle.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross Revenue.

428. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial, Provincial, and Local Revenues) for 1902-1903 as compared with that for 1901-1902 :—

(The figures are in thousands.)

	1901-1902.				1902-1903.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—								
I.—Land Revenue	3,20,63	87,49	...	4,08,12	3,04,71	1,06,60	...	4,11,31
II.—Opium	6,30,83	...	...	6,30,83	5,57,71	...	...	5,57,71
III.—Salt	2,60,38	...	...	2,60,38	2,67,95	...	...	2,67,95
IV.—Stamps	47,51	1,42,54	...	1,90,05	48,93	1,46,78	...	1,95,71
V.—Excise	75,13	75,13	...	1,50,26	78,94	78,94	...	1,57,88
VI.—Provincial Rates	...	48,18	49,57	97,75	...	49,74	51,39	1,01,13
VII.—Customs	1,83,04	2,64	...	1,85,68	1,77,93	2,28	...	1,80,21
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	28,26	28,26	...	56,52	29,26	29,26	...	58,52
IX.—Forests	6,46	6,46	...	12,92	6,28	6,28	...	12,56
X.—Registration	8,35	8,35	...	16,70	8,45	8,45	...	16,90
Total ...	15,60,59	3,99,05	49,57	20,09,21	14,80,16	4,28,33	51,39	19,59,88
XII.—Interest	14,81	3,31	43	18,55	14,56	3,48	41	18,45
Post-office, Telegraph, and Mint—								
XIII.—Post-office	...	...	12	12	...	...	9	9
Receipts by Civil Department—								
XVI.—Law and Justice—								
Courts of Law	...	8,02	...	8,02	...	8,11	...	8,11
Jails	...	13,69	...	13,69	...	11,58	...	11,58
XVII.—Police	...	1,69	9,46	11,15	...	2,16	9,88	12,04
XVIII.—Marine	...	12,59	...	12,59	...	12,73	...	12,73
XIX.—Education	...	7,05	80	7,85	...	7,09	79	7,88
XX.—Medical	...	2,07	50	2,57	...	2,24	51	2,75
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	...	2,76	23	2,99	...	2,65	26	2,91
Total ...	...	47,87	10,99	58,86	...	46,56	11,44	58,00
Miscellaneous—								
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	1,52	71	...	2,23	1,63	91	...	2,54
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,08	1,39	1	2,48	1,01	1,38	1	2,40
XXV.—Miscellaneous	53	11,53	2,14	14,20	48	9,74	2,17	12,39
Total ...	3,13	13,63	2,15	18,91	3,12	12,03	2,18	17,33
State Railway gross receipts	2,85,49	...	...	2,85,49	2,93,08	...	...	2,93,08
Irrigation—								
XXIX.—Major works (direct receipts)								
XXX.—Minor works and navigation	...	17,77	...	17,77	...	21,21	...	21,21
By Public Works Department	...	5,73	...	5,73	...	5,49	...	5,49
By Civil Department ...	...	1,03	17	1,20	...	1,13	18	1,31
Total ...	...	24,53	17	24,70	...	27,83	18	28,01
Buildings and Roads—								
XXXI.—Military works	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
XXXII.—Civil Works—								
By Public Works Department	1	2,21	...	2,22	1	2,47	...	2,48
By Civil Department ...	...	2,63	5,65	8,28	...	2,53	6,18	8,71
Total ...	2	4,84	5,65	10,51	2	5,00	6,18	11,20
Contributions	...	2,45	12,20	14,65	...	63	19,90	20,53
GRAND TOTAL ...	18,64,04	4,95,68	81,28	24,41,00	17,90,94	5,23,86	91,77	24,06,57

The chief variations are explained in the sections on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

Imperial Revenue and Finance.

429. The following statement shows Imperial Receipts in 1902-1903 as compared with those of 1901-1902:—

Major Heads.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	3,20,62,944	3,04,71,053	.....	15,91,891
II.—Opium	6,30,83,496	5,57,70,823	.....	73,12,673
III.—Salt	2,60,37,624	2,67,94,565	7,56,941	.....
IV.—Stamps	47,51,390	48,92,610	1,41,220	.....
V.—Excise	75,12,849	78,93,957	3,81,108	.....
VII.—Customs...	1,83,04,022	1,77,92,163	.....	5,11,859
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	28,25,845	29,26,092	1,00,247	.....
IX.—Forest	6,46,118	6,28,124	.....	17,994
X.—Registration	8,34,832	8,45,383	10,551	.....
XII.—Interest	14,81,166	14,55,725	.....	25,441
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	1,52,191	1,63,553	11,362	.....
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,08,143	1,01,074	.....	7,069
XXV.—Miscellaneous	52,864	48,327	.....	4,537
Total ...	15,78,53,484	14,97,83,449	14,01,429	94,71,464

The several increases and decreases shown in the above table are accounted for mainly by the causes given below: *Salt*—Larger clearances on payment of duty; *Stamps*—Payment of Probate duty in respect of three large estates in Calcutta, and increase in the number and value of civil suits; *Excise*—Better settlements and increased consumption of dutiable articles; *Assessed Taxes*—Better collections in Calcutta from Jute Companies and jute presses; *Registration*—Increase in the number of deeds consequent on survey and settlement operations; *Superannuation*—Larger realizations of subscriptions under the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Regulations owing to an increase in the number of subscribers; *Land Revenue*—Larger assignments to Provincial Revenues for increased expenditure under Education and Civil Works; *Opium*—Sale at a lower average price; *Customs*—Decline in Import duty under sugar, silver bullion and coin; *Interest*—Reduction in the outstanding balances of loans; *Stationery and Printing*—Smaller sales of stationery to State Railways.

430. The following statement shows Imperial Expenditure in 1902-1903 as compared with 1901-1902:—

Major Heads.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks	6,43,302	7,80,762	1,37,460	.....
2. Assignments and Compensations ...	1,29,978	1,23,892	.....	6,086
3. Land Revenue	5,59,336	6,69,394	1,10,058	.....
4. Opium	2,40,63,382	2,46,18,875	5,55,493	.....
5. Salt	2,84,893	3,00,551	15,658	.....
6. Stamps	1,80,464	1,82,229	1,765	.....
7. Excise	3,43,164	3,87,262	44,098	.....
10. Assessed Taxes	1,00,859	1,00,593	.....	266
11. Forest	3,28,565	3,19,007	.....	9,558
12. Registration	4,70,636	4,76,315	5,679	.....
14. Interest on other obligations	71,924	77,867	5,943	.....
18. General Administration	2,77,501	2,65,155	.....	12,346
23. Ecclesiastical	2,11,010	2,02,803	.....	8,207
25. Political	25,576	65,532	39,956	.....
26. Scientific and other minor Departments ...	3,09,870	73,847	.....	2,36,023
27. Territorial and Political Pensions ...	10,52,391	10,63,362	10,971	.....
28. Civil Furlough	261	590	329	.....
29. Superannuation	49,544	39,555	.....	9,989
30. Stationery and Printing	25,90,647	28,02,140	2,11,493	.....
32. Miscellaneous	52,033	46,517	.....	5,516
45. Civil Works	.....	55,592	55,592	.....
Total ...	3,17,45,336	3,26,51,840	11,94,495	2,87,991

The principal increases and decreases are explained mainly by the causes noted below:—*Refunds and Drawbacks*—Due to special adjustment by debit to this head of the amount recovered from the Bettiah estate and credited to Land

Revenue in previous years and larger payments on account of refunds of export duties and Import duties on sugar (countervailing duties), on arms and on metals other than silver; *Land Revenue*—Larger expenditure on Survey and Settlement operations in Behar; *Opium*—Larger payments to cultivators in the Behar Agency due to larger outturn of crop; *Salt*—Larger expenditure in the saliferous districts due to the entertainment of the full complement of establishment; *Excise*—Increased establishment for strengthening and improving the Preventive Service; *Political*—Payment of salary of the Political Agent, Manipur, for three months in Calcutta and special payments on account of advances to the Political Officer, Sikkim; *Territorial and Political Pensions*—Special payment of Rs. 50,000 to the Nawab of Murshidabad for repairs to his buildings against savings under Nizamut, Oudh and Chitpur families due to lapses; *Stationery and Printing*—Larger purchase of stationery owing to heavy demands of the Presses and State Railways and to larger supplies to officers on account of the Delhi Coronation Durbar; *Civil Works*—Grant-in-aid to the Calcutta Municipality for the improvement of the official and commercial centre of the town of Calcutta; *Scientific and other Minor Departments*—Smaller outlay on Census operations; *Superannuation*—Smaller payment of pensions from the Military and Military Orphan Funds.

Land Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1902-1903.]

Classification of estates.

431. During the year there were (i) 175,132 permanently-settled estates, (ii) 10,441 temporarily-settled estates, and (iii) 3,144 estates held direct by Government, making a total of 188,717 as against 187,747 estates in the previous year. The number under the three classes increased by 638, 173 and 159 estates respectively, or a total of 970 estates.

Demand and collections.

432. The total current demand increased from Rs. 4,00,90,038 to Rs. 4,02,59,280, there being an increase in all three classes of estates. Out of the arrear demand of Rs. 13,20,431 the collections during the year amounted to Rs. 9,24,654, representing 70·02 per cent., as against 70·35 in the year before. Total collections, current and arrear, amounted to Rs. 4,02,74,387, or 96·86 per cent. of the total demand, as compared with 96·68 in 1901-1902. Remissions granted during the year amounted to Rs. 1,43,464, against Rs. 1,47,386 in the preceding year. The total collections, as also the percentages of the current collections on the current demand and of the total collections on the total demand were better than in any year of the past quinquennium, while the total balance outstanding at the close of the year (Rs. 8,94,114) was the lowest on record during the same period.

Canal Revenue.

See under Chapter IV, "Canals."

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Report on the Administration of the Customs Department in the Bengal Presidency for 1902-1903; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section XXXIII, Merchandise Marks.]

Foreign Trade.

433. Import duties were subject to three changes during the year. The most important, although latest, of these was the reduction in salt duty from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2 per maund under a Government of India Notification of the 18th March 1903. The immediate effect of the reduction was, that large clearances of salt, which had been held back in anticipation, were made at the lower rate of duty between the 18th March and the close of the year, 606,568 Indian maunds being cleared in this short period, representing a reduction in revenue of Rs. 3,03,284. The next most important change was the imposition of additional duties by Act VIII of 1902 passed on the 6th June on sugar benefited by the trade combinations known as Cartels. Rupees 1,51,139 were realised under the new Act, practically in the first three months of the year, after which there was a marked decline in imports of beet sugar from Germany and Austria-Hungary, the countries chiefly affected by the new duties. As a consequence the income from countervailing duties levied under the previous

Act (XIV of 1899) fell from Rs. 11,95,109 to Rs. 3,67,431; and ceased practically to exist during the last four months of the year. The last of the changes referred to was of small importance, being the levying of an import duty on kerosene oil tins (which are made of iron) in addition to the duty leviable on the oil itself.

The gross revenue collections from customs amounted to Rs. 4,18,30,441, showing an increase of ·9 per cent. This figure includes the revenue from salt, Rs. 2,42,73,129, and from general merchandise, Rs. 1,75,57,312; but the year's increase was due to the salt receipts, those from general merchandise having actually declined by 2·9 per cent. If the revenue from salt imported into Calcutta but paid into district treasuries for clearance from inland warehouses be added, which amounted in the past year to Rs. 30,12,585 (a decrease of ·3 per cent.,) the gross revenue is further increased to Rs. 4,48,43,026, or an advance of ·8 per cent.

A feature of the year's results is the uniformity with which the proportions of the previous year borne by each separate heading to the total are reproduced. With the exception of Schedule III, in which the variation has been from 61·4 per cent. to 63·4 per cent. owing to an increase of revenue from salt duty, and of sugar in Schedule IV, the countervailing duties for which have dropped from 2·9 per cent. to ·9 per cent., there has been no variation exceeding ·5 per cent. Schedule II (*arms and ammunition*) contributed revenue to the extent of Rs. 1,70,498, or ·4 of the total. Schedule III accounted for Rs. 2,65,05,679, or 63·4 per cent. *Salt* contributed 58 and *liquors* 5·4 per cent. of the total. Schedule IV absorbed Rs. 1,31,18,188, or 31·3 per cent. Under Schedule V the collections on exports of *paddy and rice* amounted to Rs. 15,17,506, or 3·6 per cent. of the whole. There was again an increase in the collections of excise duty on local *cotton manufactures* which rose from Rs. 5,863 to Rs. 6,605, an increase of 12·6 per cent. The amount repaid in refunds and drawbacks was greater by 7·9 per cent. than in the previous year, rising from Rs. 4,77,355 to Rs. 5,12,895. Import refunds amounted to Rs. 4,28,070 and export refunds to Rs. 56,004. The former were chiefly made up of salt, Rs. 1,26,116, which was 40·7 per cent. less than in the previous year, arms, Rs. 1,12,101, and of sugar, Rs. 1,39,008. These three items, salt, arms, and sugar, aggregate 88·1 per cent. of the total import duties refunded.

Income of the Custom House, Calcutta.

434. The net income of the Custom House amounted to Rs. 4,08,94,366, against Rs. 4,04,68,010, representing an increase of Rs. 4,26,356, equivalent to 1·05 per cent. The revenue derived from Customs duties more than accounts for the advance. If Rs. 30,12,585 paid into the District Treasuries on account of salt transferred from bond at Calcutta to the inland bonded warehouses be added to this, the net revenue becomes Rs. 4,39,06,951, as compared with Rs. 4,34,91,002, representing an increase of ·95 per cent.

Receipts and disbursements of the subordinate ports in Bengal.

435. The aggregate receipts amounted to Rs. 23,89,402 and the disbursements to Rs. 70,245, giving a net income of Rs. 23,19,157 equal to an increase over the net income of the previous year of Rs. 2,06,099. Narayanganj contributed 12 lakhs on account of the clearances of salt from private warehouses.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

436. Three hundred and eighty-seven cases were disposed of during the year. The extra duty realized amounted to Rs. 5,174-1-0, the average per case being Rs. 13·3. The total amount of penalties inflicted was Rs. 3,785-5. The offences were mostly under section 32 of the law and were mainly due to carelessness or clerical errors in the preparation of bills-of-entry on the part of importers or their employés.

Cases under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act.

437. There were 251 cases under the Act during the year, and penalties were imposed in 227, amounting to Rs. 3,513.

Changes in procedure.

438. With a view to simplifying the procedure in the Custom House, a Commission was appointed to sit during the year to consider the reforms needed. The Commission sat in November and December and submitted their report in January. Most of their recommendations have been tried and several changes have been effected.

Miscellaneous.

439. The number of Customs documents dealt with during the year increased by 4,385. There were 108,554 import bills-of-entry, against 106,954 in the previous year; 81,908 shipping-bills, against 81,005. Warehousing

bills for bonded salt increased by 1,348 and clearance passes for salt from bond rose by 1,336. The fluctuations in other documents were unimportant.

The amount of stamp duty realised declined to Rs. 21,901-5 from Rs. 22,375-8 in the previous year.

OPIUM.

[Report on the Administration of the Opium Department for 1901-1902;* Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section IV.]

Character of the season, and general.

440. The year was characterised by a failure of the rains in both Agencies. In Bihar, south of the Ganges, the season was not discouraging, but north of the river, especially in Bettiah and Motihari, it was most dispiriting. In Benares the absence of rain delayed sowings: blight appeared in several districts, and some damage was caused to the crop by hail in Ghazipur and Sitapur. As compared with the averages for the preceding seven years, the average outturn per bigha showed a decline of 10 chitaks in the Bihar Agency and a rise of 7 chitaks in Benares, being 2 seers 9 chitaks in the former, and 4 seers 1 chitak in the latter. The most important feature of the year has been the introduction throughout the Bihar Agency of the alternative system of direct payment to the raiyats.

There was a marked improvement in the Benares Agency in the proportion of personal attendance of cultivators at settlements. The results in Bihar, however, are disappointing, and until the raiyats abandon their reliance upon the *khatadar* in favour of personal attendance, one of the main objects of the alternative system will remain unachieved.

In view of the inconvenience of having different years for factory and administrative purposes, the general adoption of the former period, *i.e.*, from 1st November to 31st October, was proposed to and sanctioned by the Government of India.

Cultivation.

441. The total area settled was in Bihar 350,736 bighas, and in Benares 629,595 bighas. In the Bihar Agency there was a further small decrease in the area which the raiyats engaged to cultivate, the decline being general in all the sub-agencies, except Bettiah, Hazaribagh and Tirhut. The reasons given for the decrease are various, but none of the explanations given appear to be wholly satisfactory. The decrease in the area settled in the Benares Agency in 1900-1901 was to some extent made good during the year under review. The total area sown was in Bihar 335,924 bighas, and in Benares 627,635, there being a decrease of 16,263 bighas in the former and an increase of 1,602 in the latter as compared with 1900-1901. While the proportion of failures due to non-fulfilment of engagements in the Benares Agency was far less than in Bihar, the total area so lost was considerably in excess of that reported in the previous year.

Check measurements.

442. Check measurements by gazetted officers were made in 54,507 plots in the Bihar Agency and in 115,567 plots in the Benares Agency, there being an improvement in both Agencies as the results of the previous year; due to the fact that the number of officers employed on the work was greater than in the preceding year. The percentage of the area test-measured to the total measured cultivation is, however, still very low in Bihar.

Irrigation.

443. The irrigated area amounted to 87 per cent. in Bihar, and 97 per cent. in Benares of the land cultivated (exclusive of failures) as compared with 84 and 96 per cent. respectively in the preceding year. Advances made during the year for the construction of wells amounted to Rs. 36,862 in Bihar, and Rs. 37,167 in Benares, both figures being considerably in excess of those for the preceding year. In the Benares Agency where the amount advanced exceeded all previous records, with the exception of those for the famine year of 1896-97, the amendment of the rules regulating well advances is said to have facilitated their distribution.

Outturn and sales.

444. The total outturn of provision opium during the year amounted to 44,724 chests. The process of manufacture was not complicated as in the previous year by the low consistence of the drug available, the average consistence at each factory being slightly in excess of the standard fixed. The use of bags in packing opium has practically passed out of the experimental stage and is now an established and successful procedure.

* For the year 1st November 1901—31st October 1902

During the calendar year 1902, 48,000 chests of provision opium were sold in equal proportions from Bihar and Benares. As compared with the results of the previous 12 months, the average prices of Bihar and Benares opium realized from November 1901 to October 1902 showed a decrease of Rs. 170 and Rs. 176 per chest, respectively—a result which is said to be mainly due to the fall in exchange value of silver.

Expenditure. 445. The total expenditure in the Patna Agency was Rs. 77,31,032, and in the Benares Agency Rs. 1,69,54,543. An increase of over six lakhs in the Bihar Agency is due to a larger outturn and the high consistence of the drug.

SALT.

[Report on the Administration of the Salt Department for 1902-1903 ; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section III.]

Administration. 446. The most important incident of the year occurred towards its close. With effect from the 18th March 1903, the rate of duty upon salt manufactured in any part of British India (other than Burma, certain mines in the Kohat district and Aden) or imported by land into any part of British India (except Burma) was reduced from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2 a maund. There was no change in the law under which the Salt Department was administered, although the question of the sufficiency of that law to meet present conditions has been and is still under the consideration of Government.

Several small alterations were made in the area in which preventive operations are carried on, and a few comparatively unimportant changes in administration were introduced.

Stocks and issues of salt. 447. The stocks of salt held at the commencement of the year in all *golas*, both public and private, amounted to more than 36 lakhs of maunds, or over 23 lakhs of maunds in excess of the same figure for the preceding year during which importations had been unusually heavy. The quantity of salt imported during the year under report showed a decline of nearly 28 lakhs of maunds, although it totalled over one crore and 6 lakhs of maunds, and was still considerably in excess of the importations during 1900-1901. The clearances were larger than in either of the two preceding years, and amounted to over one crore and 13 lakhs of maunds. After allowing for wastage, the closing balance stood at 27,53,786 maunds. At the close of the year, there were 3,50,184 maunds of salt lying afloat in ships in the Port of Calcutta, against 2,06,049 maunds at the end of 1901-1902. It appears that the existence of the large stocks in the *golas*, at the close of the previous year, induced a general slackness in the import trade during the year under report. The percentage of the total importations which was bonded in the Sulkea and Kidderpore Dock *golas*, continued to increase steadily and amounted to 71 per cent. during 1902-1903, as against 65 per cent. in the previous year.

Imports. 448. There was a decrease of 22·7 per cent. in the importations of salt by sea into Calcutta during the year. Nearly half of the total imports came from the United Kingdom, but English salt is being slowly, but steadily, replaced by salt imported from Aden and the Red Sea.

The importations into Chittagong again advanced by 76·9 per cent. compared with those of the previous year, in continuation of an advance of 70 per cent. during 1901-1902 in comparison with 1900-1901. The increase is attributed to larger demands from the adjacent districts owing to the facilities given by rail and boat.

Sales of imported salt from shipboard and bond. 449. There was an increase of 5·4 per cent. in the sales of imported salt, of which 19 per cent. was sold from shipboard and 81 per cent. from bond. The corresponding proportions in the preceding year were 32 and 68 per cent. In Calcutta there was a fall of 38 per cent. in the sales from the importing vessel direct, while there was an increase of 30 per cent. in the sales from bond. It would appear that the practice of bonding salt will gradually supersede the procedure of direct sale from shipboard. This result necessarily follows from the supersession of sailing vessels by steamers, and of the boats carrying salt to Calcutta during the year, 94 per cent. were steamers.

Inland Bonded warehouses. 450. Four additional private bonding warehouses were opened during the year, and at its close there were 22 such warehouses in existence.

The quantity of salt despatched to these inland bonded warehouses, from shipboard and from bond in Calcutta, amounted to 12,58,769 maunds, as compared with 13,53,091 maunds during 1901-1902, a decrease of nearly 7 per cent. There was thus a check in the volume of the consignments to these warehouses, but it is to be noted that the preceding year had shown an increase of over 29 per cent. as compared with 1900-1901.

Of the duty-paid salt conveyed from Calcutta inland, and to Orissa, 22,89,830 maunds were conveyed by boats, 10,09,523 maunds by steamers and flats, and 62,38,803 maunds by rail.

The total quantity despatched from Calcutta showed a decrease of 4·5 per cent., and the percentages of despatch by each method of transit were much the same as in the preceding year.

Imports of Madras salt into Orissa.

451. The quantity of Madras *karkatch*, and refined salt, imported into Orissa from the different factories during the year, was 8,28,823 maunds in comparison with 7,11,909 maunds in the previous year; the net increase was 16·4 per cent.

Consumption of salt.

452. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in the entire Province of Bengal, during the year under review, was 1,10,45,690 maunds. This is exclusive of 2,81,862 maunds, being the net exports by land, and inclusive of 16,847 maunds educed from saltpetre. In comparison with the preceding year, the figures show an increase of 6,14,252 maunds, or 5·8 per cent. Of the total quantity, the saliferous tracts (including the whole of Orissa) took 19,61,893 maunds, or 17·8 per cent., and the rest of the Province 90,83,797 maunds, or 82·2 per cent. The consumption per head in the saliferous tracts, including Orissa, was 5 seers 15 chitaks, or 12·21 lbs., and in the rest of the Province, 5 seers 7 chitaks, or 11·18 lbs.

During the year under report, the consumption of salt within the Salt Law area rose by 42,797 maunds, in continuation of an increase of 15,902 maunds in 1901-1902 as compared with the preceding year.

Prices of salt in Bengal generally.

453. The average wholesale selling prices per maund of salt, inclusive of duty, during the year under report, were lower than in the preceding year in all districts, except seven (Birbhum, Howrah, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Purnea, Puri and Singhbhum). It was only, however, in Singhbhum that the increase of price was particularly noticeable, and it is there attributed to the larger sales of the more expensive *panga* salt, in place of the cheaper *karkatch* variety previously consumed. The divisional averages fell in all cases, and the average wholesale price for the whole Province was Rs. 3-10-9 per maund as compared with Rs. 3-12-8 in 1901-1902, showing a fall of about two annas. Except at Muzaffarpur (where, however, the rise was small), the average price of salt per maund in the principal provincial bazars was lower than in the preceding year. The average for the twelve marts, for which figures are quoted, was Rs. 3-9-2 against Rs. 3-11-9 in 1901-1902, being a decrease of two annas seven pies per maund.

The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per hundred maunds, as sold from the ship's side in the port of Calcutta, exclusive of duty, amounted to Rs. 56-3-9, as compared with Rs. 69-11-5 in 1901-1902, a decrease of Rs. 13-7-8. The fall in price is ascribed to the large stocks in hand and to the general depression in the trade. The selling price of Liverpool salt, per hundred maunds, exclusive of duty, which in 1901-1902 varied from Rs. 70-5-8 to Rs. 57-4-6, ranged in the year under report from Rs. 64-10-8 to Rs. 47-8-8.

Preventive measures.

454. Operations for the prevention of illicit manufacture of salt were carried on in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Khulna, Chittagong, and of the Orissa Division. During the year under review, illicit salt was attached, released, and confiscated in 1,163, 5 and 887 cases respectively, to the extent of 261, 85 and 156 maunds. The number of seizures and unsuccessful house-searches during the year under review was 1,228 and 12, respectively. There were 813 prosecutions against 1,238 in 1901-1902: out of 1,017 persons arrested and brought to trial, 817 were convicted, showing a percentage of 80. Cases of illicit manufacture of salt (section 9, Act XII of 1882) numbered 673, as compared with 953 in the previous year. The proportion of persons convicted of this offence was 79 per cent. of those brought to trial. The fines and forfeitures realised during the year amounted to Rs. 7,689-0-5, while Rs. 6,567-10-8 were disbursed as rewards.

Trade in saltpetre.

455. The quantity of salt educed in the manufacture of saltpetre and removed from all the refineries in the Province, on payment of duty, during the year, was 16,847 maunds.

Receipts and charges.

456. The financial results of the year, as compared with those of 1901-1902, show an increase of Rs. 7,70,656, or 2·9 per cent., in the receipts, and a decrease of Rs. 77,023, or 14·8 per cent. in the charges, giving a net revenue of Rs. 2,63,61,090, which is in excess of that obtained during 1901-1902 by Rs. 8,47,679, or 3·3 per cent. The increase in receipts occurs mainly under the two heads of "Import Duty on Salt" and "Rent of Warehouses"; the former was due to the heavier clearances from bond owing to a falling off in the importations, and the latter to the larger stocks of salt in the *golas* throughout the year. There was a marked fall in the Excise duty on salt, owing to the exhaustion of the stocks of Lake salt in Orissa.

EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in Bengal for 1902-1903; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section V.]

Excise Revenue and Charges.

457. The revenue, charges and net revenue of the year were, respectively, Rs. 1,57,87,729, Rs. 7,72,606 and Rs. 1,50,15,123. The net revenue shows an increase of Rs. 6,65,624, or 4·6 per cent., and is the largest on record. The charges show an increase of Rs. 96,788, mainly the result of an increase of Rs. 75,223 under "Establishments," due to the entertainment of new officers and peons in connection with the reinforcement and reorganisation of the preventive staff.

An increase of Rs. 7,62,412, or 4·8 per cent., in the total revenue, was common to all but three districts. The largest increase (Rs. 1,82,305) took place in Calcutta. The increase was also considerable in Hazaribagh (Rs. 42,523), Sonthal Parganas (Rs. 36,927), Purnea (Rs. 35,888), Champaran (Rs. 33,957), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 32,283), and Ranchi (Rs. 30,089). On the other hand, the decrease was heavy in Gaya (Rs. 13,428). There was an increase under every head except "Miscellaneous," Methylated spirit and Beer. The largest increase occurred, as in the previous year, under the head "Country spirits," being Rs. 4,36,860. Ganja comes next with an increase of Rs. 1,74,466, followed by imported wines, pachwai, and opium, which yielded an increase of Rs. 36,651, Rs. 35,457, and Rs. 31,876, respectively. The largest decrease (Rs. 2,820) occurred under the head "Miscellaneous."

Of the gross demand of Rs. 1,58,43,912, a sum of Rs. 1,57,87,729, or 99·6 per cent., was realized. Taking the population of Bengal, according to the last census, at 75 millions, the incidence of the Excise revenue of the year is 3 annas 4 pies per head, or Rs. 2-1-4 for every 10 of the population, as against 3 annas 2 pies in the previous year, but allowing for an increase of 7 per thousand per annum as representing the average annual growth of population, the incidence of the Excise revenue is 3 annas 3 pies per head. Of the total receipts, Country Spirits contributed 47·2 per cent.

Current settlements.

458. There has been a net increase of Rs. 3,46,097 in the settlements for the current year, which is shared by all the Divisions, excepting the Presidency and Chittagong, which show a decrease of Rs. 7,638 and Rs. 18,038, respectively. The increase is large in the Chota Nagpur (Rs. 1,20,773) and Burdwan (Rs. 83,960) Divisions. The increase is generally attributed to favourable settlements, owing to competition among bidders.

Country spirit.

459. There was no change during the year in the number of distilleries or depôts. The number of outstills settled was 2,134, and the number of licenses issued for the sale of distillery liquor was 1,237.

Consumption of distillery liquor.

460. The consumption of distillery liquor, in L. P. gallons, rose from 610,354 to 652,009. Of the 31 districts in which the distillery system is in force, there was an increase of 46,706 gallons in 20, and a decrease of 5,051 gallons in the remaining 11. The most noticeable increase took place in the Sonthal Parganas (12,590 gallons), Calcutta (10,862 gallons), and Patna (10,507 gallons).

Revenue from outstill and distillery liquor.

461. The receipts from outstills rose from Rs. 35,68,589 to Rs. 37,26,567. The increase was large in Hazaribagh (Rs. 33,250), Ranchi (Rs. 24,722), Purnea (Rs. 21,206), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 15,751), Manbhum (Rs. 10,674), Champaran (Rs. 10,576), and Darjeeling (Rs. 19,015). On the other hand, there was a heavy decline in Patna (Rs. 25,254) and Gaya (Rs. 22,023). Of the 30 districts in which the outstill system is in force, there was an increase of Rs. 2,07,924 in

26 districts, and a decrease of Rs. 49,946 in the remaining four. The revenue from distillery liquor increased from Rs. 34,53,138 to Rs. 37,32,020. The increase is marked in Calcutta (Rs. 1,61,219), Patna (Rs. 45,614), the Sonthal Parganas (Rs. 21,261), Hooghly (Rs. 11,033) and the 24-Parganas (Rs. 10,577). Of the 31 districts in which the distillery system is in force, there was an increase of Rs. 2,87,469 in 21, and a decrease of Rs. 8,587 in the remaining ten. The total receipts from outstill and distillery liquor amounted to Rs. 74,58,587 as against Rs. 70,21,727 in the previous year.

462. Eleven licenses for the retail sale of rum only were taken out, of which ten were issued in Calcutta and one in Darjeeling, as in previous years. Rum is also sold under licenses for the sale of distillery spirit and imported liquors. The receipts from license fees amounted to Rs. 24,737. **Country rum.**

The total consumption was 39,151 gallons, showing an increase of 2,733 gallons L. P., of which 1,174 gallons L. P. were contributed by Madras rum, 1,491 gallons L. P. by Shahjahanpur rum, and 68 gallons L. P. by Albion rum. The increase is, however, small compared with the heavy decrease of 18,467 gallons L. P. which occurred in 1901-1902. The revenue from duty increased from Rs. 2,05,879 to Rs. 2,23,874, the result of increased consumption.

463. The total number of licenses granted, for the sale (wholesale and retail) of imported liquor, was 645. The total receipts, which are derived from license fees alone, amounted to Rs. 3,74,075. There was a total increase amounting to Rs. 39,191 in 40 districts, while in six districts there was a decrease amounting to Rs. 2,540. The increase has been general over all classes of liquors. Of the total imports, ale, beer and porter contributed 818,302 gallons, brandy 56,161 gallons, whisky 232,392 gallons, other sorts of spirits and liqueurs 164,406 gallons, and wines 109,839 gallons. The quantity of German white spirit and rectified spirit, which are the same under different names, imported during the year, was 48,324 gallons. **Imported liquor.**

Under a circular order of the Board of Revenue, a condition has been inserted in all imported liquor licenses, both in Calcutta and in the mufassal districts, to the effect that no female should be employed in any capacity whatsoever in the public rooms of licensed premises otherwise than with the permission previously obtained in writing from the Board and endorsed on the license.

464. The amount of methylated spirits, on which duty was paid during the year, was 72,843 gallons. The total amount of duty paid was Rs. 4,538. **Methylated Spirits.**

465. The total number of licenses increased from 14,835 to 15,250, and the receipts from Rs. 10,50,229 to Rs. 10,77,171. Of the total number of licenses, 13,312 were for fermented tari. **Tari.**

The receipts from fermented tari increased from Rs. 10,42,771 to Rs. 10,69,578, the result of favourable settlements, increase in the number of shops, prompt collection of the year's demand, and realization of a larger amount of advance fees. As in previous years, the bulk of the revenue was derived from the seven districts of the Patna Division, and Monghyr and Bhagalpur, which contributed between them Rs. 6,81,113, or 63·2 per cent. of the total amount.

466. The total number of licenses issued was 13,030, and the receipts Rs. 5,76,226. The number of licenses for retail sale and revenue was 1,651, and the revenue Rs. 5,27,855. **Pachwai.**

An increase in revenue of (Rs. 29,667) is generally attributed to the settlement of shops at enhanced fees on account of competition at the annual sales. The increase is most marked in Burdwan (Rs. 18,910). As in previous years, the bulk of the *pachwai* revenue was derived from Burdwan (Rs. 2,21,645), and Birbhum (Rs. 1,36,474), the total revenue on this account from the two districts being 62·1 per cent. of the entire revenue on this account.

The number of licenses for home-brewing issued, increased from 10,491 to 11,379, and the revenue from Rs. 42,581 to Rs. 48,371.

467. There were two breweries in the district of Darjeeling against three in the previous year, the brewery attached to St. Joseph's College, in the town of Darjeeling, having been closed. The total quantity of beer issued from the two breweries was 76,003 gallons. The prescribed duty of one anna per gallon was levied on all beer issued. The total revenue, which is made up of license fees and duty, amounted to Rs. 4,541. The quantity of Kasauli beer imported during the year into the district of Patna from the brewery at Kasauli **Country Beer.**

(Simla Hill) was 47,480 gallons. The quantity issued was 51,923 gallons, practically the whole of which was supplied to the Commissariat Department.

Ganja.

468. There was no change in the arrangements under which ganja is cultivated, cut, manufactured and stored. The number of licenses issued to grow ganja was 1,594; the estimated cultivation was 2,354 bighas, and the produce 5,040 maunds. As there was a very large outturn in the preceding year, cultivation was restricted to a limited area, which was calculated to produce the estimated quantity of ganja required. The Supreme Government has been in favour of restricting cultivation, and orders were received during the year that only a limited area, not exceeding 976 acres, should be placed under ganja cultivation each season, and that this limit should not be exceeded without the previous sanction of the Government of India. The average outturn shows a decrease which is attributed to the ravages of insects before the crop was cut. Prices were low till December, in consequence of a large stock being in hand, and they went up in January, when it was made clear that the next crop would be small.

The number of offences in connection with ganja, detected in the ganja tract in the past year, was 48, and in 44 of them convictions were obtained. As in the preceding year, the low prices prevailing during the greater part of the year were partly responsible for the large number of cases detected.

The number of licenses for the retail sale of ganja issued during the year was 2,760. The license fees realised amounted to Rs. 15,94,429, giving an increase of Rs. 96,905, which was due to the increase in the number of licenses and to favourable settlements. There was no change in the rates of duty on the different sorts of ganja during the year. As in previous years, ganja was consumed in every district in the Province. The consumption was largest in Calcutta. It was also considerable in the districts of Mymensingh, Monghyr, Dacca, Purnea, Shahabad, Bhagalpur, the 24-Parganas and Champaran. Four thousand eight hundred and forty-three maunds were consumed in Bengal, while 536 maunds were exported, duty-paid.

The total receipts amounted to Rs. 32,62,120, as against Rs. 30,87,654 in the year 1901-1902. The increase was most marked in the districts of Calcutta (Rs. 26,441), Champaran (Rs. 22,228), Monghyr (Rs. 15,346), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 12,004), Purnea (Rs. 8,885), and Sonthal Parganas (Rs. 8,022). The increase in all these districts is both in license fees and duty, and in the district of Champaran it is mainly in duty.

The incidence of license fees per seer was Rs. 7·4 and of duty Rs. 7·7, giving a total taxation of Rs. 15·1.

Siddhi, Bhang or Sabsi.

469. There was an increase of 55 in the number of licenses (402) taken out for the retail sale of *siddhi*, *bhang* or *sabsi*, due to the opening of new shops to meet ascertained local demand, and in order to place the licit drug within easy reach of consumers. The total quantity of *siddhi* issued was 1,104 maunds. There was a small increase in the receipts (Rs. 85,024) from license fees and duty, the greater part of which was contributed by Calcutta.

Charas and Majum.

470. The use of *charas* is very limited and is practically confined to Western and Central Bengal, the only districts having licenses for its sale outside this tract being Dacca, Mymensingh and Manbhum. The receipts from license fees were Rs. 21,148. The receipts from license fees for the sale of *majum* were Rs. 1,892, of which Calcutta, Dacca and Shahabad contributed Rs. 1,594.

Opium.

471. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of opium was 1,697, and the number of druggist permits granted was 2,060. The quantity of opium sold was 2,351 maunds, and the total receipts were Rs. 26,52,154, or an increase of Rs. 31,876 over the figures of the previous year. The revenue from license fees increased from Rs. 7,08,998 to Rs. 7,22,104, and the receipts from duty rose from Rs. 19,11,280 to Rs. 19,30,050.

Cocaine.

472. Licenses granted to approved druggists and chemists for the sale of cocaine numbered 349, and the receipts from license fees were Rs. 339. Seventy-eight persons were convicted of illicit sale of the drug, of whom 57 were convicted in Calcutta. Outside Calcutta the use of cocaine as an intoxicating drug is reported to be confined to the districts of Hooghly, Murshidabad, Bhagalpur and Purnea.

Prosecutions, Rewards, &c.

473. The number of persons arrested for offences against the Excise and Opium Laws during the year was 3,625, of whom 87·4 per cent. were convicted.

A large decline in the number of arrests made was due to the cheapening of liquor in the Sonthal Parganas, where arrests fell from 766 in 1901-1902 to 231 in 1902-1903. The fines imposed and realised amounted to Rs. 68,028 and Rs. 51,796 respectively: both figures are considerably below those of the previous year, a result due to the decline in the number of cases instituted. The total amount distributed in rewards was Rs. 57,381.

Staff.

474. Twenty-two Special Deputy Collectors were employed in the Department during the year. The number of permanent officers on the subordinate establishment was 483. During the year the preventive establishments were strengthened, the number of officers employed being raised from 201 to 246.

Amendment of the Bengal Excise Act.

475. A Bill to amend and consolidate the Bengal Excise Act, VII (B.C.) of 1878, has since the close of the year been introduced into Council.

STAMPS.

[Resolution by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, on the working of the Stamp Department for 1902-1903; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section. VII.]

Stamp. Revenue.

476. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 1,95,68,939, against Rs. 1,90,05,559 in the previous year, with a consequent increase of Rs. 5,63,380. The increase of revenue occurred both under judicial and non-judicial stamps. The total charges during the year amounted to Rs. 4,95,497, or an increase of 0·3 per cent. over the figures for 1901-1902. The increased expenditure was mainly due to the allowance of discount to vendors on the larger sales effected.

Court-fee Stamps.

477. The sale-proceeds of court-fee stamps, excluding stamps for copies, rose from Rs. 1,26,43,091 to Rs. 1,31,09,400, that is, by Rs. 4,66,309. The largest increase, amounting to Rs. 1,87,665, occurred in Calcutta, which the Collector attributes mainly to the payment of probate duty in respect of three large estates. An increase of Rs. 45,547 in the 24-Parganas is chiefly due to the large number of applications made for mutation of names in respect of holdings in the Government estate Panchannogram. The advance in other districts is generally attributed to an increase in the number and value of civil suits. Decreases of over Rs. 10,000 occurred in the districts of Hooghly (Rs. 12,771), Backergunge (Rs. 18,046), Noakhali (Rs. 10,674), Patna (Rs. 30,853), Shahabad (Rs. 18,267), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 36,770), and Purnea (Rs. 17,083). The smaller value of civil litigation is usually adduced in explanation, but in two of the three districts of the Patna Division (Patna and Shahabad) the prevalence of plague affected the work of the Courts, and in Purnea the figures of the preceding year had been unusually swollen by one particular case.

Non-Judicial Stamps.

478. Non-judicial stamps yielded an increased revenue to the extent of Rs. 48,722, or 0·9 per cent., compared with the year 1901-1902. The increase was shared by all classes of stamps, except impressed stamps, *hundis*, share transfer, and notarial stamps. The revenue derived from the sale of impressed stamps amounted to Rs. 35,59,590, against Rs. 36,05,461 in the preceding year. No very conclusive explanation is forthcoming. The revenue derived from the sale of *hundis*, or inland bills of exchange, was Rs. 1,25,486, showing a decrease of Rs. 7,054 as compared with the receipts of the preceding year. The largest increase (Rs. 76,442) is under the head of impressed labels, which are used only in Calcutta, and it is attributed to the more extensive execution of conveyances and trust mortgages on account of the holders of debentures of certain Companies. There was a satisfactory increase in the sale of one-anna receipt stamps, which was especially marked in Calcutta. The increase in the sale of forms for cheques or receipts is attributed to the briskness of trade and to the use of embossed cheques by municipalities and other local bodies.

Stamp Vendors.

479. The total number of vendors employed in the sale of judicial and non-judicial stamps during the year was 6,821, or an increase, as compared with the previous year, of 66 persons. A considerable reduction in the number of vendors was effected in the Chota Nagpur Division by the elimination of those whose transactions were insignificant.

Deficit duty.

480. The total number of cases in which deficient duty had been paid, dealt with by Civil Courts during the year shows an increase of 377, but there was a decrease of Rs. 4,260 in the duty and penalty realised, in comparison with the figures of the preceding year. This was especially noticeable in the district of Dacca. On the other hand, there was a decrease of 536 in the number of cases decided, but an increase of Rs. 27,622 in the duty and penalty realised by

Revenue Officers, as compared with the figures of the preceding year. The large increase in the amount of duty and penalty is mainly due to the payment of Rs. 29,170 on seven instruments dealt with by the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta.

Prosecutions under the Act.

481. The number of prosecutions instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 220, in which 252 persons were brought to trial, against 567 cases and 497 persons in the preceding year. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 1,557 in comparison with Rs. 4,047 in 1901-1902, while the amount distributed in rewards was Rs. 551, against Rs. 2,647. The falling off in the number of cases instituted in Calcutta was very marked, but no special explanation has been given.

INCOME-TAX.

[Resolution by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, on the Administration of the Income-tax Department for 1902-1903; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section VIII.]

Receipts etc.

482. The receipts, charges, and net revenue under Income-tax were respectively Rs. 58,66,787, Rs. 2,12,463, and Rs. 56,54,324. Net revenue showed an increase of 3·9 per cent. as compared with an increase of 7·5 per cent. in 1901-1902.

The number of persons finally assessed shows an increase of 2,053, or 1·7 per cent., as compared with 3·8 per cent. during the previous year. The final demand for the year rose by Rs. 1,47,989, or by 2·9 per cent. in comparison with 8·2 per cent. during 1901-1902. The demand increased by over 10 per cent. in the districts of Balasore (30·01), Singhbhum (19·3), Tippera (14·3) and Hazaribagh (10·2)—attributable, generally, to more thorough assessments. The results in Balasore are reported to have been mainly achieved by the enhancement of the demand from well-to-do assessees who had been previously under-assessed.

The demand decreased by over 10 per cent. in Manbhum owing to the exemption from assessment of bonuses paid for the settlement of coal-bearing lands and to the dull state of the coal trade.

Collections.

483. The percentage of collections on the final demand on account of the tax for the year was 96·6, as compared with 96·3 during 1901-1902. The districts of Burdwan, Dacca, Noakhali, Champaran and Malda succeeded in collecting the entire demand within the year. The prescribed standard of 95 per cent. was attained in all the other districts except Jalpaiguri, the 24-Parganas and Calcutta, where the percentages were 94·7, 94·03, and 94·7, respectively. The low percentage of collections in Jalpaiguri was due to the non-realisation of the sum of Rs. 1,041-10-8, being the tax of one assessee whose objection was pending before the Commissioner. As regards the 24-Parganas, it is reported that a larger area having been taken up for revision than in previous years, a considerable number of assessments could not be completed earlier than the close of the third quarter of the year, and consequently a large amount of tax covered by objections was not legally due before the end of the year. There was also some difficulty experienced on account of the wide publicity given to the Government notification raising the assessable minimum from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 towards the end of the year, several assessees professing to believe that these orders had retrospective effect. The failure in attaining the prescribed standard of collection in Calcutta during the year is ascribed to the fact that many assessments had to be made during the last quarter of the year.

The collections upon the profits of companies showed a noticeable increase of Rs. 1,02,393, or 18·4 per cent. in comparison with the preceding year, and it is explained by the Collector of Income-tax, Calcutta, that the assessments on Jute Companies and Jute Presses were mainly responsible. Coal Companies do not manifest much improvement, and the returns from Cotton Mills and Insurance Companies were poor. Outside Calcutta, the receipts under this head were largest in the district of Dacca, where the collections advanced from Rs. 152 during 1901-1902 to Rs. 7,285 during the year under report, but the Commissioner has not explained the fluctuation. The results under other parts did not present special features.

Remissions.

484. The amount of tax remitted rose from Rs. 71,130 in 1901-1902 to Rs. 1,04,158 during the year under report. The remissions in Calcutta (Rs. 85,159 in comparison with Rs. 51,017 during the preceding year) were mainly responsible for this result, but the figures were unduly swollen by the

inclusion of remissions of Rs. 35,976 on account of the year 1899-1900 and of Rs. 25,052 on account of the year 1900-1901. The figures for the year 1901-1902 had only included remissions on account of previous years (1898-99) to the extent of Rs. 29,516.

FOREST REVENUE.

[Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1902-1903.]

485. The receipts from forests for the forest year (1st July 1902—30th June 1903) were Rs. 12,47,493: Charges amounted to Rs. 6,40,252, leaving a surplus of Rs. 6,07,241. Receipts were less by Rs. 53,023 than in the previous year, a result due to the remission of Rs. 21,000 to certain lessees of *sabai* grass in the Singhbhum Division, and in a greater measure to the prohibition of the export of undersized *sundri* logs from the Sundarbans.

Nearly one-half of the total receipts were contributed by the Sundarbans Division: the Angul and Palamau Divisions again worked at a loss.

Provincial Finance.

486. PROVINCIAL.—The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1902-1903, as compared with those of 1901-1902:—

RECEIPTS.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	42,61,612	49,05,782
Principal Heads of Revenue—		
I.—Land Revenue { Proper ...	1,05,52,406	1,06,82,479
I.—Land Revenue { Adjustments	—18,03,718	—22,201
IV.—Stamps	1,42,54,169	1,46,77,828
V.—Excise	75,12,849	78,93,957
VI.—Provincial Rates	48,18,263	49,74,391
VII.—Customs	2,64,583	2,28,267
VIII.—Assessed Taxes...	28,25,845	29,26,092
IX.—Forests	6,46,119	6,28,124
X.—Registration	8,34,831	8,45,383
Total ...	3,99,05,347	4,28,34,320
XII.—Interest	3,30,637	3,47,632
Receipts by Civil Department—		
XVI.—Law and Justice—		
Courts of Law	8,01,684	8,10,900
Jails	13,69,255	11,57,962
XVII.—Police	1,69,387	2,15,857
XVIII.—Marine	12,58,529	12,73,632
XIX.—Education...	7,04,553	7,08,909
XX.—Medical	2,07,659	2,23,688
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	2,75,966	2,64,841
Total ...	47,87,033	46,55,789
Miscellaneous—		
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	71,361	90,658
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,38,822	1,37,910
XXV.—Miscellaneous	11,53,457	9,74,119
Total ...	13,63,640	12,02,687
Irrigation—		
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts)	17,76,911	21,21,308
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—		
By Public Works Department	5,72,990	5,48,631
By Civil Department ...	1,03,063	1,12,818
Total ...	24,52,964	27,82,757
Buildings and Roads—		
XXXII.—Civil Works—		
By Public Works Department	2,20,470	2,46,627
By Civil Department ..	2,63,436	2,53,030
Total ...	4,83,906	4,99,657
Contributions	2,45,320	62,944
Total ...	4,95,68,847	5,23,85,786
GRAND TOTAL ...	5,38,30,459	5,72,91,568

EXPENDITURE.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.
	Rs.	Rs.
Direct demand on the revenues—		
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	1,93,762	2,30,650
2. Assignments and Compensations	1,60,514	1,58,514
3. Land Revenue	40,69,611	39,81,885
6. Stamps	5,41,390	5,46,687
7. Excise	3,43,165	3,87,262
8. Provincial Rates	99,097	1,08,445
9. Customs	9,19,586	8,97,002
10. Assessed Taxes	1,00,859	1,00,593
11. Forests	3,28,566	3,19,007
12. Registration	4,70,635	4,76,315
Total ...	72,27,185	72,06,360
13. Interest on ordinary debt ...	2,09,601	2,01,038
Post Office, Telegraph and Mint—		
15. Post Office	2,787	3,933
Salaries and expenses of the Civil Department—		
18. General Administration	18,32,105	22,01,858
19. Law and { Courts of Law ...	94,02,454	95,54,927
Justice { Jails	29,92,319	26,90,927
20. Police	61,94,992	63,16,532
21. Marine	10,11,954	10,53,891
22. Education	29,41,016	31,12,742
24. Medical	20,59,324	20,25,920
25. Political		
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments	17,998	44,431
	5,22,378	5,70,218
Total ...	2,69,74,540	2,75,71,446
Miscellaneous—		
29. Superannuation, &c.	23,88,677	24,72,003
30. Stationery and Printing	12,94,063	13,63,115
32. Miscellaneous	2,03,868	3,15,200
Total ...	38,86,608	41,50,318
Famine Relief and Insurance—		
33. Famine Relief	3,530	100
Irrigation—		
42. Major Works—		
Working expenses	11,32,636	10,68,354
Interest on debt	24,54,094	24,53,314
43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
By Public Works Department	13,17,386	16,06,847
By Civil Department ...	4,232	4,527
Total ...	49,08,348	51,33,042
Buildings and Roads—		
45. Civil Works—		
By Public Works Department	43,70,888	55,69,350
By Civil Department ...	1,20,643	1,50,844
Total ...	44,91,531	57,20,194
Contributions	12,20,547	19,90,289
Total ...	4,89,24,677	5,19,76,720
Closing balance	49,05,782	53,14,848
GRAND TOTAL ..	5,38,30,459	5,72,91,568
Provincial surplus (+) or deficit (−) ...	+6,44,170	+4,09,066

487. RECEIPTS.—The increase under *Land Revenue* was due to larger collections from Government estates and increased receipts from the sale of waste lands in the Sundarbans. The *adjustments* between Imperial and Provincial Revenues resulted in a net deduction of Rs. 22,201 from the Provincial share of Land Revenue against Rs. 18,03,718 in the preceding year. Special assignments of ten lakhs for increased expenditure under Education and of eight lakhs for expenditure under Public Works, including the construction of a new surgical ward for the Medical College Hospital, were made from the Imperial Revenues during the year under report, and these were set against the contributions payable from the Provincial Revenues. The fluctuations under the heads, *Stamps*, *Excise*, *Assessed Taxes and Registration* which are divided in fixed proportions between Imperial and Provincial, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Provincial Rates* occurred mainly in the collection of Public Works Cess; that under *Interest* was due to the grant of larger advances on Embankments and Drainage; while that under *Law and Justice*, *Courts of Law*, occurred chiefly in the sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property and Pleadership examination fees. The decrease under *Jails* was due to the smaller supply of manufactured articles to the Military and other Departments of Government and to smaller output consequent upon the release of prisoners on the occasion of Their Majesties' Coronation. The increase under *Police* was due to larger recoveries on account of Punitive Police, while that under *Marine* occurred in Pilotage receipts. The increase under *Medical* was partly under Hospital receipts and partly under Lunatic Asylums where it was due to better receipts from paying patients. The decrease under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was chiefly owing to the stoppage of quarry operations in Darjeeling. The increase under *Superannuations* resulted from larger recoveries of contributions from officers lent to Municipalities, Corporations, etc., while the decrease under *Miscellaneous* was due to the stoppage of contributions from Municipalities towards the cost of plague camps.

The large increase under *Irrigation—Major Works* was chiefly due to larger collections from water-rate on account of an exceptional extension of irrigation in the Orissa, Midnapore and Sone Canals for the *rabi* crop of 1902. The decrease under *Minor Works and Navigation* occurred in the Calcutta and Orissa Coast Canals. The increase under *Civil Works* in charge of the Public Works Department was chiefly due to an increase in the Government share of the profits of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway. The decrease under *Contributions* was due to the stoppage of contributions from District Boards to meet the cost of plague camps.

488. EXPENDITURE.—The increase under *Refunds and Drawbacks* was incurred under Land Revenue, and was due to a special adjustment of the amount received from the Bettiah estate in previous years on account of survey and settlement charges, but subsequently transferred to special advances by debit to this head. The decrease under *Land Revenue* was partly under charges of District Administration and partly due to smaller outlay on Survey and Settlement operations. The increase under *Excise* was incurred in strengthening and improving the Preventive Service; while that under *Law and Justice*, *Courts of Law*, was partly owing to the appointment of an Additional Puisne Judge, official Referees and additional establishment in the High Court, and partly to the appointment of four Additional Subordinate Judges and to the improvement of the position of Munsifs by the revision of grades. The decrease under *Jails* was due to smaller outlay on purchase of raw materials and diet of prisoners in consequence of the release of a larger number of prisoners on the occasion of Their Majesties' Coronation. The increase under *Police* occurred partly under Presidency Police, but chiefly under District Executive Police. Under *Marine* it was chiefly under Building, Repairs and outfit of vessels and Marine establishments, while under *Education* it was partly due to higher expenditure in Government Colleges, and partly to the provision of larger grants for European boys' and girls' schools and primary schools. The decrease under *Medical* was due to savings in the salaries of officers. The increase under *Political* was incurred in illumination and Durbar charges in Calcutta and the Mufassal in connection with Their Majesties' Coronation. The increase under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was distributed between experimental cultivation, cinchona plantations and veterinary charges, while that

under *Superannuations* was due to the continued growth of expenditure on superannuation and retired allowances. The increase under *Stationery and Printing* occurred partly under Stationery supplied from Central Stores and partly under Government Presses where it was due to a general increase of outturn. The increase under *Miscellaneous* was due to adjustments, remissions, and larger donations for charitable purposes.

The short outlay under *Working Expenses of Irrigation Major Works* was due to a decrease of expenditure on extensions and improvements in the Orissa, Midnapore and Sone Canals, while the excess expenditure under *Minor Works and Navigation* was due to larger expenditure having been incurred in the Madaripore bhil route in the Calcutta Canals, Lackhowra distributary and agriculturist embankments. The increase under *Contributions* was due chiefly to additional grants to District Boards for the improvement of primary education, for additional Sub-Inspectors of Schools, for additional remuneration to teachers in primary schools and for the purchase of furniture, &c., in those schools.

Financial Statement in Council.

489. The eleventh Financial Statement of the Government of Bengal was laid before the Council on the 28th March and discussed on the 4th April 1903. The most important of the subjects referred to by the non-official members were:—Police and Educational Reforms, the development of Agriculture, the development of the great waterways of the Province, the improvement of the status of various departments, the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, and the removal of delays in the High Court and in the Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

Local Finance.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1902-1903.]

490. The following table shows the income, expenditure, and opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1902-1903:—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Fund	30,56,437	1,11,66,237	1,42,12,674	1,06,09,534	36,03,140
District Road Fund	19,079	2,62,405	2,81,484	2,07,001	74,483
District Road Account	62,009	79,557	1,41,566	1,21,573	19,993
District Post Fund	3,54,833	3,29,675	6,84,508	3,73,467	3,11,041
Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	.....	15,113	15,113	15,113	.....
Steam Boiler Inspection Fund ...	65,604	51,407	1,17,011	43,458	73,553
Village Chaukidari Fund ...	41,423	3,58,315	3,99,738	3,34,002	65,736
Road Patrol Fund	24,631	31,771	56,402	32,514	23,888
District Chaukidari Reward Fund ...	77,230	59,810	1,37,040	66,137	70,903
Total ...	37,01,246	1,23,44,290	1,60,45,536	1,18,02,799	42,42,737

The grants made by Government to the District Funds, the District Road Funds and the District Road Account, during the year, were Rs. 18,74,776, Rs. 93,949 and Rs. 13,000, respectively, while the advances made for Imperial and Provincial Public Works were Rs. 10,45,295. The total payments made in Bengal on account of the Inland Labour Transport Fund amounted to Rs. 58,933 against Rs. 37,314 made in 1901-1902. The excess expenditure in 1902-1903 was mainly due to the appointment of a Travelling Superintendent of Emigration, for Bengal and the Central Provinces, on a monthly salary of Rs. 900. The total cost of the appointment during the year, including travelling allowances, establishment and contingencies, was Rs. 17,100 which was divided between the two Provinces in proportion to their receipts; the amount debited to the Central Provinces was Rs. 6,985. The increased expenditure, however, having threatened the solvency of the fund, the appointment of the Medical Inspector of Emigrants, Calcutta, was abolished from 1st December 1902, his duties being assigned to the Superintendent of Emigration.

491. The transactions of Excluded Local Funds were as follows:—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Police Funds—					
Railway Police Clothing ...	3,021	5,150	8,171	4,834	3,337
Foundling Asylum	25	3,419	3,444	3,437	7
Fire Brigade	17,871	84,820	1,02,691	78,806	23,885
Calcutta and Suburban Police Superannuation	10,184	38,572	48,756	37,058	11,698
Total ...	31,101	1,31,961	1,63,062	1,24,135	38,927
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues at Calcutta ...	1,92,722	1,10,178	3,02,900	57,818	2,45,082
Ditto at Chittagong	3,096	7,079	10,175	8,621	1,554
Orissa Ports	8,301	21,242	29,543	17,422	12,121
Total ...	2,04,119	1,38,499	3,42,618	83,861	2,58,757
Education Funds—					
Hindu College	745	4,752	5,497	5,814	—317
Durga Charan Laha's Scholarship	.....	1,957	1,957	1,957	.....
Jagiara	43	1,171	1,214	782	432
Jadu Nath Mukerjee's Scholarship	166	.....	166	.....	166
Total ...	954	7,880	8,834	8,553	281
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrims' Lodging-house ...	31,882	94,650	1,26,532	60,175	66,357
Cuttack Anna Chatra ...	1,344	18,140	19,484	7,708	11,776
Chuni Lal Seal's Endowment ...	125	4,246	4,371	2,408	1,963
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	2,614	904	3,518	333	3,185
Ram Lal Mukerji's Endowment ...	3,071	1,745	4,816	.....	4,816
Dum-Dum Out-door Dispensary ...	4	1,071	1,075	1,070	5
Chittagong General Hospital ...	13,369	21,068	34,427	18,123	16,304
Total ...	52,399	1,41,824	1,94,223	89,817	1,04,406
Public Works Funds—					
Darjeeling Improvement ...	39,849	62,666	1,02,515	63,698	38,817
Khondmal Road	4,298	4,990	9,288	7,227	2,061
Total ...	44,147	67,656	1,11,803	70,925	40,878
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Zoological Garden	4,672	75,811	80,483	71,652	8,831
Mohsin Endowment	6,600	1,10,810	1,17,410	1,12,488	4,922
Christian Burial Board ...	6,473	19,047	25,520	16,772	8,748
Muhammadan Burial Board ...	1,065	1,697	2,762	1,546	1,216
Western Duars Market ...	7,089	18,250	25,339	13,749	11,590
Chittagong Hill Tracts Bazar ...	4,336	2,267	6,603	3,252	3,351
Total ...	30,235	2,27,882	2,58,117	2,19,459	38,658
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	661	2,284	2,945	2,743	202
Barrackpore	4,543	32,568	37,111	32,132	4,979
Cuttack	1,817	8,356	10,173	5,498	4,675
Dinapore	2,142	27,691	29,833	29,303	530
Ranchi*(Dorunda)	140	2,007	2,147	2,055	92
Dum-Dum	852	18,198	19,050	17,741	1,309
Jalapahar	603	9,919	10,522	9,753	769
Lebong	883	5,882	6,765	6,038	727
Buxa Duars	118	1,994	2,112	2,002	110
Total ...	11,759	1,08,899	1,20,658	1,07,265	13,393
Chittagong Port Fund	18,002	84,330	1,02,332	97,775	4,557
Grand Total ...	3,92,716	9,08,931	13,01,647	8,01,790	4,99,857

The receipts of the Orissa Ports Fund included a sum of Rs. 7,679 realized from the sale of the main light removed from Shortt's Island Lighthouse and sold to the Burma Government. Owing to the amount of monthly scholarships

sanctioned by the Director of Public Instruction having exceeded the income of the Hindu College Fund, the fund closed the year with a deficit balance of Rs. 317, which will be made good by a grant from Government. The Durga Charan Laha's Scholarship Fund received a contribution of Rs. 183 from the Provincial Revenues to cover its excess expenditure.

There was a special receipt of Rs. 7,335 in the Pilgrim Lodging-house Fund from the sale of Government securities belonging to the Kanai Lal Pandit Trust Fund which was made over to it for the construction of a Rest-house at Puri. The Lodging-houses at Uluberia were closed, and the balance of the fund was transferred to the credit of the Municipality of the place. Two special grants of Rs. 5,000 each were given from the Provincial Revenues to the Cuttack Anna Chatra Fund, for the improvement of the Cuttack General Hospital, and for the construction of a new operating room in connection therewith. A grant of Rs. 11,000 was made by Government to the Zoological Garden in addition to the yearly grant of Rs. 20,000 for putting the garden buildings in a thorough state of repairs. The Muhammadan Burial Board Fund received a grant of Rs. 1,697 from the Provincial Revenues.

Special contributions were made during the year by the Military Department to the following Cantonment Funds:—for general administration—Buxa Duars Rs. 240; for Conservancy—Alipore Rs. 1,571, Buxa Duars Rs. 1,640, Dum-Dum Rs. 3,000, Jalapahar Rs. 3,788 and Lebong Rs. 4,800; for hospitals and dispensaries—Barrackpore Rs. 500, Dinapore Rs. 2,776 and Jalapahar Rs. 4,371.

The receipts of the Chittagong Port Fund show a decrease chiefly under Jetties and partly under Port dues. A temporary grant of Rs. 5,000 was given to the Port Fund to enable it to meet pressing liabilities, but it was repaid during the year.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Road and Public Works Cess Operations in the Lower Provinces for 1902-1903.]

492. The cesses were, as in the preceding year, levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the 43 districts in which the Cess Act, IX (B.C.) of 1880, is in force. The current demand of land revenue of the 43 districts is Rs. 3,98,19,307, and the valuation, or gross rental, amounts to Rs. 17,49,73,823. These districts include Singhbhum, where the Act is in operation in parganas Dhalbhum and Porahat only. The Act has been introduced in the recently re-settled estates in the Sonthal Parganas, but there was no demand during the year. Rate, land revenue demand and gross rental.

As compared with the previous year, the current demand shows an increase of Rs. 2,67,658. This result was mainly due to revaluations in the districts of the 24-Parganas (Rs. 59,914), Purnea (Rs. 46,538), Gaya (Rs. 38,036), Shahabad (Rs. 30,952), Nadia (Rs. 16,385), Bogra (Rs. 16,028), Backergunge (Rs. 8,632) and Khulna (Rs. 7,295), and to the assessment of coal mines in Manbhum (Rs. 15,919) and Burdwan (Rs. 19,798) and also to the assessment of the resumed *chakran* (service) lands in the latter district. The arrear demand has decreased by Rs. 4,596 and Rs. 3,377, as compared with the two preceding years. It is satisfactory to note that, simultaneously with the large increase in the current demand of the year under report, there was an increase in collections by Rs. 3,21,179, giving a percentage of 100·4, against 99·8 in the previous year. As a result of good collections in the year, the outstanding balance declined by Rs. 45,814, and the percentage on the total demand improved, being 14·5 against 15·3 in the preceding year. The remissions granted amounted to Rs. 67,751.

Manbhum.	Tippera.
Muzaffarpur.	Patna.
Ranchi.	Khulna.
Hazaribagh.	Cuttack.
Chittagong.	Champaran.
Burdwan.	Rajshahi.
Midnapore.	Murshidabad.
Rangpur.	Saran.
Darbhanga.	Bhagalpur.
Monghyr.	Balasore.

In the 20 marginally-noted districts collections attained the prescribed standard of 100 per cent. or more on the current demand.

In the first four districts, Manbhum, Muzaffarpur, Ranchi, and Hazaribagh, the percentage of collection was more than 105. The number of districts in which the percentage was less than 100 was 23.

Working of the Certificate procedure.

493. The total number of certificates filed for the realization of cess arrears was 77,523, against 139,613 of the previous year. The noticeable decline is shared by all the Divisions, and is mainly attributable to the Board of Revenue's circular prohibiting the issue of certificates for petty arrears, and allowing them to accumulate to Rs. 5, unless they are likely to be barred by limitation. The effect of the circular order is most marked in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions.

The disposals exceeded the institutions in all the Divisions except Orissa and Chota Nagpur. Owing to the decrease in the number of certificates filed, the pending cases, as compared with the previous year, show a material reduction in all except ten districts.

Objections against certificates.

494. The total number of objections filed and disposed of were 8,210 and 7,808, against 11,759 and 11,498, respectively, of the previous year. The decrease is probably due to the smaller number of institutions during the year owing to the Board's Circular prohibiting the issue of certificates for petty arrears. In 756 cases against 1,146 of the preceding year, the certificates objected to were cancelled, the percentage slightly improving from 9·9 to 9·6. The number of cases in which reductions were made in the amount certified was 1,032.

Stage of procedure at which demands were satisfied.

495. In 36,346 cases, the cess arrears were recovered on the mere issue of notice; in 72,182 on the issue of notice for sale of defaulters' moveable property; and in 23,194 on the issue of notice for the sale of defaulters' immoveable property. Of the total number of sales (3,387), 1,300, or 38·3 per cent., were set aside under sections 20 and 21 of the Public Demands Recovery Act, I (B.C.) of 1895, as amended by Act I (B.C.) of 1899.

Valuations and revaluations.

496. Revaluations on an extensive scale are in progress in the districts of Hooghly, Rajshahi, the regulation portion of Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Dacca, Faridpur, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Malda and Hazaribagh, and valuations or revaluations, partial or complete, are going on in 28 out of 44 districts (including the Sonthal Parganas) to which the Cess Act has been extended.

During the year general revaluations were brought to a close in the districts of Nadia, Khulna, Cuttack and Balasore. In Nadia and Khulna the operations have brought in an approximate increase of Rs. 29,762 and Rs. 67,407, or of 19·2 and 40·7 per cent., respectively, on the previous assessment. In Cuttack the revaluation has resulted in an increase of Rs. 50,474, or 39·2 per cent., on the former cess demand.

In regard to the assessment of rent-free lands, Government has decided that in all future revaluations, unless there are strong reasons to the contrary, assessment through the zamindars shall be the rule and not the exception.

Separate accounts for revenue-paying and revenue-free estates.

497. There were 4,183 separate accounts opened during the year in revenue-paying estates, the total number of such accounts at the end of the year being 88,630, with a total cess demand of Rs. 18,38,584. For revenue-free estates 101 separate accounts were opened, and the total number of such accounts at the close of the year was 1,248, with a total cess revenue of Rs. 43,894. As in the previous year, the number of separate accounts opened during the year for revenue-paying estates was largest in the Patna and Dacca Divisions.

Estates and tenures and their shareholders.

498. As compared with the previous year, there has been an increase of 4,191 in the number of revenue-paying estates, of 129 in that of revenue-free estates, and 5,248 in the number of rent-free lands. The number of tenures assessed also increased by 176,226. This was due to several causes, such as the opening of separate accounts, addition of new estates, partitions, and valuations and revaluations. The number of shareholders of estates and tenures also shows an increase of 17,483 and 367,434, respectively.

Gross Rental.

499. The gross rental, or valuation, of the 43 districts under the operation of the Cess Act shows an increase from Rs. 17,03,53,369 in 1901-1902 to Rs. 17,49,73,823, or of Rs. 46,20,454, which is chiefly due to the revaluations in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Khulna, Bogra, Backergunge, Gaya, Shahabad and Purnea and to the assessment of coal mines in Burdwan and Manbhum.

Revision of the cess tauzi establishment.

500. The Board of Revenue's proposals for the increase of the total staff of tauzi muharrirs in the cess tauzi establishment in those districts of the Lower Provinces in which separate establishments are maintained for the cess accounts, involving an increase of 17 muharrirs with an annual expenditure of Rs. 4,056, were sanctioned by Government and the revised scale of establishment was given effect to from the 1st April 1903.

Municipal Revenues.

See under Chapter III 'Municipal Administration.'

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for 1902; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIII.]

Provincial birth and death-rates.

501. The total number of births and deaths registered in Bengal during the year under review amounted to 2,987,800 and 2,488,428, as compared with 2,870,806 and 2,310,424, respectively, during the preceding year, the corresponding ratios being 40·14, 33·43, 38·57 and 31·04 per mille of population. Thus there has been an increase of 116,994 births and 178,004 deaths over the figures for 1901. The number of births during 1902, though larger than in the two preceding years, is still smaller than that recorded during 1899. This was probably due to the fact that the average prices of the principal food-grains during 1901 were, as stated in last year's report, higher almost in every district, and this by lowering the stamina of the masses lessened their fecundity. In fact the birth-rate was actually lower in 14 districts, in almost all of which the prices of the staple food-grains were high during 1901. As regards deaths, the somewhat large increase noticed above was due chiefly to the greater prevalence of fever and cholera, and to the fact that infantile mortality, which is generally very high and swells the provincial death-rate, was much higher during the year under report than during 1901. During 1902, the average prices of staple food-grains were more or less lower than in the preceding year in almost every district. The Sanitary Commissioner is of opinion that though this may lead to an increased birth-rate during 1903, the beneficial effect of low prices is likely to be greatly counterbalanced by the general unhealthiness of the year.

Divisional results of registration.

502. Compared with 1901, the birth-rate, during the year under review, was higher in every division of the Province, except Burdwan which shows a slight falling off, being over 40 per mille in six out of the nine divisions, viz., Rajshahi, Dacca, Chittagong, Patna, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur. The death-rate also showed an increase in the Burdwan, Presidency, Rajshahi, Dacca and Chota Nagpur Divisions. Judged by mortality, the Presidency Division, which recorded a death-rate of 38·51 per mille, was most unhealthy, and Chittagong, with a ratio of 26·73, was the healthiest of all the divisions. It is noticeable that the October rainfall was fairly heavy only in the latter Division (Chittagong), while it was more or less scanty at all other places. Chota Nagpur, which is usually the healthiest Division in the Province, had to yield the place of honour to Chittagong, and occupy second place during the year under report.

During the year, 305,986 births and 220,556 deaths were enquired into by Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Vaccination, while performing their ordinary vaccination inspection duties: very few cases of omission to register births or deaths were detected by these officers.

Infant mortality.

503. Of the 2,987,800 births registered, 1,533,117 were of males and 1,454,683 of females. Of the former 322,465, or 21·03 per cent., did not survive the first year of their existence, while 276,470, or only 19 per cent., of the females born perished during the same period, the corresponding ratios for the preceding year being 18·95 and 17·19, respectively. The increased mortality during the year under review was due to its general unhealthiness which falls heaviest on infants on account of their great susceptibility to the prevailing diseases and of the generally worse health of the mothers. As usual, every district showed larger male births than female births, as well as larger deaths among male infants than among female infants. The death-rate among male infants was, as in the preceding year, lowest in Darbhanga (ratio 14·75 per cent.), while Chittagong recorded the smallest mortality (ratio 13·43 per cent.) among female infants, Calcutta as usual being most fatal to infant life, both

male and female, the respective ratios amounting to 38·51 and 35·28 per cent. against 48·33 and 48·04 during 1901.

504. Cholera prevailed with greater severity than in 1901, being responsible for the deaths of 150,971 persons against 110,753 in the preceding year. No district was immune from the disease. The death-rate from small-pox (·77 per mille) was much higher than that recorded in any other year during the decade, a fact no doubt largely responsible for the increase in the number of vaccine operations noticed under 'Vaccination.' The disease prevailed with the greatest severity in the districts of Midnapore, Singhbhum and Patna. Deaths from fever formed 69 per cent. of the whole number reported, and the mortality from this disease was the highest on record since 1897. A note by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, on the causation of malarial fevers, and suggesting practical methods of preventing and treating the disease, was circulated during the year to all Commissioners of Divisions for communication to District Boards and Municipalities. The mortality from dysentery and diarrhœa was somewhat lower than in 1901, but considerably above the average of the previous decade. Plague is dealt with below. Principal diseases.

Plague.

505. During the year under report, plague was prevalent in Calcutta, in the districts of Bihar, in Hazaribagh, and to a small extent in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. The total recorded mortality from the disease, in the whole Province, was 32,440 as against 78,578 in 1901. The epidemic reached its zenith throughout the Province during the first week of April, and from that date there was a steady decline, though not at the rapid rate maintained in 1900 and 1901. General.

506. In Calcutta, the total number of seizures and deaths from plague in 1902 were 7,789 and 7,284, respectively, against 8,616 and 7,884 in the preceding year. The disease recrudesced in January, after being more or less dormant throughout the previous autumn and winter, and appeared in an epidemic form in the month of February, when all the wards except two were affected. The highest limit was reached in the week ending 5th April, in which 689 deaths were recorded. In this respect there was a little variation from the course of the disease in the preceding year, when the climax was attained in the week ending 30th March, with a plague mortality of 1,119. The disinfection and demolition of plague-infected houses in which disinfection could not be satisfactorily effected, were the measures relied upon by the Plague Department in dealing with the disease. Major Deane, R.A.M.C., was in charge of the plague operations of the city under the general directions of the Chairman. The attitude of the people was pacific. Inoculation was seldom asked for. In Calcutta.

507. In the interior, except in the district of Darbhanga, where the mortality from plague was 3,239 against 2,479 in the preceding year, the outbreak in Bihar was far less severe during the year under report, the number of deaths from plague in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur and Monghyr having been 3,118, 82, 2,192, 12,541, 1,052 and 2,117, respectively, against 27,394, 9,985, 5,090, 17,109, 1,244 and 4,742 in 1901. The epidemic in these districts rose to its highest point in the first week of April, after which it began to decline, dwindling down considerably in May. In July, August and September, all these districts except Saran and Monghyr remained free. The disease however showed a marked recrudescence in October, and at the close of the year attained wide dimensions in all these districts. The outbreak in Hazaribagh was stamped out by the end of April, the total plague mortality being 332 against 874 in 1901. The measures adopted in combating the disease were as in previous years evacuation and to a less degree disinfection. Though there were a few cases of active or passive opposition, the inhabitants of the infected areas generally showed an increased readiness to co-operate in the measures taken for their relief. In the interior.

508. Inspection of passengers having been introduced at Fatehpur and Bhatni stations, in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, the retention of the Inspection stations at Chausa and Mairwa on the North-Western frontier of this Province, for the detection of passengers suffering from plague, was considered Plague inspections and restrictions.

unnecessary, and they were therefore closed in March 1902. Inspection at the Cuttack railway station was also discontinued in October 1902. The only place of inspection now left in Bengal is Siliguri on the Northern Bengal State Railway.

With regard to pilgrimage to the Hedjaz, the Secretary of State for India sanctioned the proposal of the Government of India to remove the restrictions imposed on the departure of pilgrims from plague-infected areas and upon the embarkation of pilgrims from infected ports.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies for 1902: Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, section XXXV, Emigration.]

Administrative measures.

509. The following important administrative measures were sanctioned during the year under report:—

(1) A proposal made by the officer administering the Government of Fiji that an Emigration Agency for that Colony should be established in the Madras Presidency was approved by the Government of India, subject to certain conditions.

(2) It was decided to allow female emigrants to Mauritius to be engaged on indenture, on certain terms, for service in that Colony.

(3) The recruitment of Indian labourers for the Natal mines was permitted, subject to specified conditions.

Requisition and despatch of labour.

510. The number of Agencies recruiting emigrants was one more than last year; recruiting for Jamaica, which was suspended in 1901, having been resumed during the year under report. Natal requisitioned and received the largest number of labourers, the number of emigrants requisitioned having risen from 770 in 1901 to 2,770 in the year under report. This is particularly noticeable, because there was a general decrease, in the year under review, both in the total demand and supply of labour for the Colonies, the demand for Demerara, in particular, having decreased from 4,000 to 2,000 labourers. The greater number of emigrants (nearly 63 per cent. of the whole number) were, as usual, recruited in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Recruiting operations were, for the first time, extended, during the year, to Ajmere, but only 63 emigrants were registered there.

Depôts.

511. Of the 13,898 emigrants who were received at the sub-depôts, 12,059 arrived in Calcutta; and, if emigrants who were recruited in the preceding year, persons re-admitted from hospital after recovery, infants born during the year, and one orphan of a returned emigrant, be added to these, the total number accommodated in the depôts in Calcutta was 13,329, as against 15,973 in 1901. The percentage of deaths in the depôts was slightly higher than in the preceding year, being 65 against ·60. The percentage of rejections for unfitness, viz., 7·44, was smaller than in 1901, but the medical examination of emigrants at the sub-depôts appears to be still capable of improvement and the matter will receive attention.

Embarkation of Emigrants.

512. During the year 10,882 emigrants, of whom 435 were returned emigrants, were embarked, against 11,951 in the year 1901, the largest number (2,907) being sent to Natal, and the smallest number (786) to Mauritius.

Returned Emigrants and remittances from Immigrants in the Colonies.

513. In all 4,236 emigrants returned to India from the Colonies, against 3,708 in the year 1901. Their aggregate savings amounted to Rs. 7,74,786-11-10, the average for each immigrant amounting to Rs. 182-14-5, against Rs. 165-10-2 in the preceding year. On the other hand, only 2,212, or 52·21 per cent. of the returned emigrants, brought back savings which ranged from one rupee upwards; while it is calculated that 893 adults, or 21·08 per cent. of the total number of returned emigrants, came back with no means at all.

The resident immigrants in Natal (72,965 in number) again sent the largest remittances by money-order to India, the total amount so sent reaching nearly 16 lakhs. Since the year 1899, the average remittance from each resident immigrant in that Colony has risen from Rs. 5-15-3 to Rs. 21-12-2 in

1902, the last-named figure being ten times higher than the average remittance from Fiji and about thirty-five times higher than that from any other Colony. These figures, taken together with the high wages offered for labour in the mines, show that the prospects of the Indian immigrant are far brighter in Natal than in the other Colonies. The average remittances from Demerara and Mauritius were a little lower than last year, while those from the other Colonies show some improvement.

EMIGRATION TO BURMA.

514. The number of State subsidised emigrants carried from Bihar to Burma during the year under report was 797 against 1,540 in the previous year. The falling off in the number of emigrants is attributed to the virulence of the plague in the Bihar districts generally.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

[Report on Inland Emigration for the year ending 30th June 1903.]

515. Two important matters were brought prominently to the notice of Government during the year, viz., (1) the need of enforcing the principle that emigrants should be registered in the districts of recruitment, and (2) the desirability of checking the recruitment of emigrants by *arkatis* and other persons who are not *bonâ fide* garden-sardars within the meaning of Act VI of 1901. Working of Act VI of 1901.

As regards the first point, the attention of Registering Officers and Superintendents of Emigration was drawn to the orders which were passed when the Act was first introduced, to the effect that, when emigrants, who are presented for registration, do not belong to the local area, in respect of which a recruiter is licensed, care should be taken to see that such emigrants have been recruited directly by the recruiter himself, and that no intermediary has been employed by him. At the same time, it was explained that, if it appeared that an intending emigrant had been residing in the district of recruitment for some time before he was presented for registration, there would be *primâ facie* no ground for suspecting that any improper procedure had been adopted in connection with his recruitment; but that if, on the other hand, it was shown that an intending emigrant had recently arrived in such a district, a presumption would ordinarily arise that his recruitment had not been legitimately effected, and careful enquiry would be necessary.

The second matter was partially dealt with in the Government Resolution reviewing the Reports on Inland Emigration for the half-year ending 30th June 1902. It was there observed that persons formerly employed as *arkatis*, or unlicensed recruiters, were being sent to Assam in order that they might be sent back from the gardens as recruiting sardars. It was decided that, provided that these men worked in conformity with the Act and the rules under the Act, no legal objection could be taken to their employment as garden-sardars. During the year under review, this matter was reconsidered, and it was held, with the concurrence of the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam, that, though no hard-and-fast rule could be laid down prohibiting the granting of sardari certificates to persons who had once been *arkatis*, the fact that a man had worked in that capacity would *primâ facie* be a ground for refusing to allow him to act as a garden-sardar. On the other hand, it would be open to an employer to prove that a man, who once had been an *arkati*, had since become a *bonâ-fide* garden-sardar.

The attention of the Lieutenant-Governor having also been drawn to the fact that men, who had been employed on tea-gardens for a few days only, were being sent down as certificated garden-sardars, the opinion was expressed, with the concurrence of the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam, that such a procedure was beyond the intention of the Act, and that certificates should be only given to *bonâ-fide* garden-sardars, *i.e.*, to persons *bonâ-fide* employed on an estate and deputed by an employer to engage labourers, and not to men who had worked on a garden for a few days only. In this connection, it has also lately been held, on a further consideration of the subject, that though no hard-and-fast rule can be laid down as to the length of time for which

emigrants must have served in a garden before a certificate, granted by an employer under section 56 of the Act, can be countersigned by an Inspector or Magistrate, such officers would be perfectly justified in refusing to countersign the certificate of a man who had not been employed, or had not worked, in a garden *bonâ-fide* as a cooly or a garden-sardar, but was suspected to have been enlisted for the purpose of recruiting only. It has, however, been pointed out that these orders, as also those referred to in the preceding clause, principally concern the officers countersigning certificates of garden-sardars in the labour districts, and that countersignature should not be withheld in the recruiting districts, under section 61 of the Act, unless there are *primâ facie* reasons which would justify a refusal.

A notification under section 90 of the Act was issued during the year permitting, subject to the provisions contained in clauses (*a*) to (*i*) of the section, specially-employed garden-sardars, not being garden-sardars holding certificates under Chapter IV of the Act, to recruit emigrants in the Sonthal Parganas and the districts of Hazaribagh and Manbhum for any of the labour districts of Assam, instead of for the districts of Cachar and Sylhet only, as hitherto.

Dieting of Emigrants.

516. Under rules added during the year to those framed under Act VI of 1901, emigrants in transit to Assam, who prefer this alternative to receiving the boiled rice supplied, are given facilities for cooking their own food and furnished with provisions for the purpose. Steamer Companies are also required to take necessary measures for preventing the sale of unwholesome food to emigrants at the steamer ghâts.

Number of emigrants.

517. During the year under review, altogether 27,589 emigrants of all classes were despatched to the labour districts from Goalundo, as against 17,774 in the last six months of the previous year. No emigrants embarked at Jatrapur or Dhubri. Owing to the completion of the new railway route from Gitaldaha junction to Dhubri and the closing of the line from Kurigram to Jatrapur, the last-named place ceased to be a port of embarkation with effect from September 1902. Of the 27,589 emigrants who embarked at Goalundo, 11,358 were recruited in Bengal and the rest in Madras and the Central Provinces. Of the total number of emigrants despatched to Assam during the year, 7,428, or 25·9 *per cent.*, were recruited by licensed recruiters; 13,279, or 48·1 *per cent.*, by garden-sardars working under Chapter IV of Act VI of 1901; and 1,867, or 6·7 *per cent.*, by specially-employed garden-sardars working under sections 90 and 91 of Chapter V of the Act; while 5,015, or 18·2 *per cent.*, proceeded to the labour districts under the provisions of section 92 of the Act. There was a noticeable decrease in the proportion of emigrants recruited by garden-sardars and a corresponding increase in the number of persons recruited under section 92 of the Act, as compared with the figures for the preceding six months; the percentages being, as indicated above, 48·1 and 18·2, as against 79·5 and 2·6, respectively.

Recruiting agencies.

518. During the year under report no emigrants were recruited by garden-sardars, holding certificates under the Act, in any of the districts of the Orissa Division, whereas, in the year 1901, 31 *per cent.*, and in the first half of the year 1902, 44 *per cent.*, of the total number of emigrants recruited in that Division, were so recruited. The Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, attributes this change of procedure to the fact that employers find it more profitable and convenient to obtain their labour under the system permitted by section 92 of the Act, according to which only the transport of emigrants recruited is subject to regulation.

Measures adopted to prevent irregular recruitment.

519. Certain orders passed during the year with the object of preventing irregular recruitment have been noticed above. Special care was taken during the year to prevent the occurrence of abuses in connection with the recruitment of women, and registration had to be refused in not a few such cases owing to the fact that the method of recruitment had been illegal.

Several instances of misconduct on the part of garden-sardars in the Singhbhum and Manbhum districts were brought to light. One sardar was imprisoned, and the licenses of several sardars were cancelled, on account of irregularities committed, while the registration of 47 emigrants had to be refused on account of illegal recruitment. In Ranchi and Palamau, the certificates of five sardars were cancelled for giving false descriptions of

emigrants, while the registration of 27 emigrants had to be refused owing to malpractices having been committed by sardars. In Hazaribagh, no instance of unauthorised recruitment or of any irregularity on the part of certificated or specially-employed garden-sardars came to light during the year under review. No prosecutions in connection with the sardari system of recruitment were reported from the Sonthal Parganas.

520. With a view to effecting necessary economies in the charges under the Inland Labour Transport Fund, the post of Medical Inspector of Inland Emigrants was amalgamated during the year with that of Superintendent of Emigrants. The retention of the appointment of Travelling Superintendent till the 31st March 1903 was sanctioned by the Government of India. Miscellaneous.

Immigration.

521. As in recent years large numbers of labourers came from the United Provinces and Bihar to parts of the Burdwan, Rajshahi and Dacca Divisions in search of work, attracted by the high wages offered there. Numbers of Sonthals and low-class Hindus from Bankura migrated temporarily, as usual, to Hooghly and some of the eastern districts to assist in reaping the crops, and there was the annual influx, into Calcutta and other parts of Bengal, of Uriyas who return home for the harvest.

The factories and mills in and round Calcutta attract each year from outside districts labourers in increasing numbers, who find higher wages for themselves and employment for their wives and children.

Medical Institutions.

[Annual returns of the Medical Institutions in Bengal for 1902, and the notes thereon of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIV, Hospitals.]

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

522. There were 17 public hospitals and dispensaries in Calcutta as in 1901. During the year the Voluntary Venereal Hospital at Sealdah was abolished, its maintenance having been proved to be unnecessary. Out-door patients numbered 260,769 against 253,615 in the previous year. The increase of 7,154 is satisfactory, considering that the general public health of Calcutta was better than in 1901. The Campbell Hospital showed the largest increase, viz., 2,561: the Medical College Hospital proper returned an increase of 2,482, and at the Mayo Hospital, where a separate out-door department for females was recently provided, an increase of 1,234 occurred among women and children only. The total number of in-door patients rose from 25,989 to 29,063, and the daily average number from 1,278 to 1,365. The increase was shared by all the institutions except the Campbell Hospital in which the attendance is always highest in times of scarcity and great sickness. The average period of stay of each in-patient was 16·26 days, and the average number of times each patient attended the out-door department was 2·58. There was an increase of patients treated under all the major heads of disease, except injuries. The changes made during the year in the control of the nursing arrangements in Calcutta hospitals were referred to in last year's report. The nursing in the several hospitals during the year is generally reported to have been satisfactory. The total number of female patients treated during the year, in-door and out-door (51,842), was the highest on record for a period of 10 years. The total number of operations performed was 28,385, or 833 more than in the previous year: the death-rate in these cases was ·71 against ·76 in 1901.

The total income of all the institutions was Rs. 12,23,967 against Rs. 10,29,406 in 1901; of this amount Government contributed nearly 75 per cent. Receipts from Local funds constituted 8·37 per cent. Subscriptions from Europeans amounted to Rs. 16,029 and from natives to only Rs. 1,512. Receipts from paying-patients showed a large increase from Rs. 61,941 to Rs. 78,699. The total expenditure, excluding investments, was Rs. 11,87,488 against Rs. 9,92,468 in 1901, the increase being mainly due to the construction of new buildings at the Presidency General and the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospitals.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES IN THE MUFASSAL.

523. Twenty-seven dispensaries were opened, and three were closed during the year: the total number open at the end of the year was 574. At Faridpur an interesting experiment was made by the District Board, who started a floating dispensary, which regularly visited all markets and villages on the Kumar river, and afforded a large amount of medical relief to the sick poor. The total number of patients, in-door and out-door, attending the several public dispensaries, was 4,162,776 against 3,711,839 in 1901. Besides these, 251,046 patients were treated in 60 private dispensaries, 165,169 in 67 railway dispensaries, 24,272 in 48 police hospitals, and 28,365 by travelling Hospital assistants. The larger attendance during the year is due partly to the unhealthiness of the year, partly to the opening of new dispensaries, and partly to the disappearance of the panic caused by the first serious outbreak of plague. The total number of female patients increased by 68,239, and children by 129,582, the result of improved arrangements made for their treatment in the various dispensaries. The total number of in-door patients treated (52,237) was greater than in any of the preceding years, except the famine year of 1897. The daily average number increased from 2,177 to 2,270, the total death-rate being 10·47 as against 10·67 in 1901. Out-door patients numbered 4,110,539 against 3,662,477 in 1901, the figure reached being the highest on record. The daily average attendance was 26,792. The increase was shared by every district in the Province, except Cuttack and Balasore; the complaints most prevalent were as usual malaria, cholera, dysentery, and other affections of the digestive system. The total number of operations performed was 171,647 against 157,377 in 1901: death resulted in only ·12 per cent. of the cases. Extraction of the lens numbered 3,203, litholapaxies 141, lithotomies 110 and ovariotomies 27. The total income of the year was Rs. 13,17,200, of which Government contributed Rs. 1,30,246. Receipts from local funds amounted to Rs. 3,73,511: the amount paid by District Boards showed a large increase of Rs. 26,372. Payments by Municipalities were Rs. 2,40,547. Private subscriptions totalled Rs. 3,64,695: the amount subscribed by Europeans showed an increase of Rs. 3,381, and that by Natives an increase of Rs. 57,531. The total expenditure of the year was Rs. 11,10,257 against Rs. 10,40,167 in 1901. The increase was due to the greater number of dispensaries and patients, to the larger provision of comforts and conveniences, and to the construction of new buildings. The working of the year goes to show that the financial position of the institutions has undoubtedly been improved by the dissociation of their finances from those of their controlling authorities.

THE EDEN SANITARIUM, DARJEELING.

[Report on the working of the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for 1902.]

524. The Eden Sanitarium continued to maintain its popularity during the year. The total number of admissions was 520, of whom 373 were patients, and 147 relatives and friends. The daily average number of patients was 47·01 as compared with 32·75 in the previous year. As usual the majority of cases treated were of malarial fever and debility, though a larger number of more serious diseases were under treatment than in previous years. Of the 373 patients treated, 326 were cured, 43 were relieved, and 4 died. The number of operations performed was 61, of which 60 were entirely and one partially successful. The total income of the year was Rs. 38,481 compared with Rs. 37,466 in 1901. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 36,911 to Rs. 44,695, large amounts being spent in the furnishing and fitting of the new hospital block, and the Committee were only enabled to meet the deficit by a grant of Rs. 5,000 by Government.

LEPER ASYLUM AT PURULIA.

525. During the year a part of the Leper Asylum maintained at Purulia by the Mission to Lepers in India and the East was declared by Government Notification to be a Leper Asylum for the purposes of the Lepers Act (III of 1898), the District of Manbhum being specified as the local area from which lepers might be sent to the Asylum. A Board was appointed, and rules laid down,

for the management of the Asylum. A sum of Rs. 5,200 was placed at the disposal of the Superintendent for the provision of additional accommodation.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

[Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal, 1900-1902; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XV, Lunatics.]

526. The number of lunatics in all the asylums in the Province, native and European, at the commencement of 1902 was 1,009, and at the end of the year 1,033. The proportion of criminal lunatics to the total asylum population on December 31st was 52·46 per cent. The accommodation in the European Asylum at Bhawanipur was reported to be insufficient, and the question of increasing it is under consideration. There was slight overcrowding in the native asylums at Dacca and Patna, but this inconvenience will be removed as soon as the new Central Asylum at Berhampore is completed and ready for occupation.

In 53·60 per cent. of the admissions into the asylums the causes of insanity could not be traced. Instructions have lately been issued by Government in regard to the preparation of the medical history sheets of lunatics committed to asylums, and it is hoped that a careful compliance with those instructions will produce better results. Among ascertained causes an increasing number, amounting to 42 per cent., were attributed to the abuse of ganja. The total number of admissions to hospital was 604, and the percentage of deaths to average strength 9·35. The total expenditure in all asylums was Rs. 1,29,018, the cost per lunatic being Rs. 125-10-8. Industries yielded a net profit of Rs. 6,688.

Sanitation.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for 1902-1903.]

527. The expenditure on sanitary purposes by Municipalities and District Boards has been detailed under Municipal administration and Local Self-Government. The arrangements for Conservancy, and the precautions taken against Plague in the Port of Calcutta, were much the same as in the previous year. In most of the districts adequate sanitary precautions were taken during local fairs and religious festivals.

The Sanitary Board had under consideration, during the year, a number of schemes for the improvement of the water-supply, the drainage, and conservancy of various localities, but the work actually carried out was not of importance. The Sanitary Board also continued its enquiry into the septic system for the disposal of sewage. Government has now decided that the system has passed beyond the experimental stage, and has approved of the construction of a septic tank in the Muzaffarpur Municipality. Similar projects are being formulated by the Garden Reach and Cossipore-Chitpur Municipalities in consultation with the Sanitary Engineer.

Vaccination.

[Annual Statistical Returns and short notes on Vaccination in Bengal for 1902-1903; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVI.]

528. The strength of the staff employed on vaccination work remained practically the same as in the previous year. The total number of operations performed was 2,781,972, showing an increase of 119,146 over that of 1901-1902.

The average work of a vaccinator rose from 923 to 972 cases. Of the total number of vaccinations 2,592,177 were primary and 189,795 re-vaccination cases, the ratio of success being 98·11 and 68·07 respectively. The increase in operations was most marked in Puri, the Sonthal Parganas, Midnapore and Shahabad. A very large decrease in Mymensingh, and lesser ones in Noakhali and Darjeeling are attributed to the absence of any epidemic of small-pox, such as characterised the previous year. In Calcutta, the total number of operations performed fell from 20,830 in 1901-1902 to 16,303, a result ascribed to frequent changes in the vaccinating staff and to the absence of immediate

supervision over the vaccinators. Vaccination in the Municipality was generally unsatisfactory and a special Committee of Medical men has been appointed by the Corporation to consider measures for its improvement. A rapid advance during the year in vaccination in the Political States of Chota Nagpur is ascribed to a system of trained supervision over the vaccinators, introduced with the co-operation of the chiefs. In Orissa, and in the adjoining Tributary States the old prejudice in favour of inoculation survives with greater vigour than elsewhere, and steps have been taken to enlist the assistance of the executive authorities both in British territory and in the native States, in the suppression of the practice. Measures for the improvement of vaccination generally in the Tributary States are under consideration. During the year, out of 2,481,991, the estimated number of infants under one year available for vaccination, 894,791, or 360·51 per thousand, were successfully vaccinated, against 320·61 of the previous year. There is thus some improvement, which must be gradual and slow, having regard to the fact that in most districts the people are very reluctant to have their children under one year vaccinated. In 14 districts, over 500 per mille of the infant population was protected, while in 8 the ratio ranged between 200 and 100 per thousand. In Municipalities, the percentage of surviving infants protected was 723·15 per mille, as compared with 696·26 in the previous year. In Calcutta, out of 7,976 infants available, only 2,626 were successfully vaccinated.

In mufassal Municipalities, dispensaries, etc., there was a decrease from 145,661 to 132,831 operations. The decrease was most marked in Darjeeling, where, however, the figures for the previous year are said to be open to suspicion. The average number of vaccinations performed by a vaccinator in the mufassal Municipalities was 638 against 650 of the previous year. The average outturn of licensed and District Board vaccinators was 990 and 1,739 cases, respectively, both figures being considerably better than those of the previous year. In factories and tea-gardens, with a population of 344,937, 11,263 operations were performed. The total cost of vaccination during the year was Rs. 1,99,448, and the cost of each successful case the same as in 1901-1902, *viz.*, 1 anna 2 pies.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 306—314.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for 1902-1903; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India: Section X.]

529. The most noticeable features in the history of education in the Province during the year under review were the introduction of the new scheme of vernacular education in Primary and Secondary schools, one of the main features of which is that Indian boys are not allowed to learn English till they have been well grounded in their mother-tongue; the abolition of the system of remunerating teachers in Primary schools on the results of public examinations of their pupils, and the substitution for it of a system of remuneration according to results ascertained by inspection *in situ;* the extension of the education of girls and of zanana ladies; and increase in the inspecting staff. General.

The table below summarises the statistics of all classes of educational institutions for the year:—

Class of Institution.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number of pupils per school.
Public Institutions—			
University ... Arts Colleges ...	45	8,030	178·4
Secondary (for males) { High English schools	554	121,022	218·4
Secondary (for males) { Middle „ „	980	72,052	73·5
Secondary (for males) { „ Vernacular „	930	51,073	54·9
Primary (for males) { Upper Primary „	4,554	195,564	42·9
Primary (for males) { Lower „ „	42,870	1,091,162	25·4
Special (including Madrasahs and institutions for professional training).	743	21,045	28·3
Female (Secondary and Primary)	3,478	77,852	22·4
Total ...	54,154	1,637,300	30·2
Private Institutions—			
(1) Advanced, teaching { (*a*) Arabic or Persian	1,187	17,122	14·4
(1) Advanced, teaching { (*b*) Sanskrit ...	1,010	9,106	9·0
(2) Elementary, teaching a Vernacular only or mainly.	3,267	29,992	9·1
(3) Elementary, teaching the Koran only ...	3,834	55,976	14·6
(4) Other schools not conforming to departmental standards.	177	4,659	26·3
Total ...	9,475	116,855	12·3
Grand Total ...	63,629	1,754,655	27·5

During the year under review, there was an increase of 2·9 *per cent.* in the total number of educational institutions of all classes, and of 5·2 *per cent.* in the total number of pupils. These figures are decidedly encouraging in view of the fact that, during the five years from 1897-98 to 1901-1902, the number of educational institutions decreased by 9 *per cent.* and the number of pupils by 0·4 *per cent.* It is noticeable that, though the number of High English schools increased by 19, the number of pupils attending them declined by 1,249. There was an increase in the number of Middle English schools, as also in the number of pupils attending them, accompanied by a corresponding decrease in the number of Middle Vernacular schools and of pupils at such

schools; the tendency being to convert Middle Vernacular schools into Middle English schools and to develop the latter, in their turn, into High English schools.

The total expenditure on education during the year was Rs. 1,35,46,783, as compared with Rs. 1,22,50,475 in 1901-1902. The percentage of the total cost borne by Provincial Revenues was 21·6, by District Funds 12·4 and by Municipal Funds ·8. The total cost of each pupil in Primary schools was Rs. 3-0-11, and in Secondary schools Rs. 18-2-8. An Imperial grant of 10 lakhs was made towards the increased expenditure, entailed by the carrying out of the recommendations of the Educational Conference, held at Simla in September 1901. Of this amount, sums of Rs. 4,43,415 and Rs. 1,36,299, respectively, were made over to District Boards and the Public Works Department for expenditure, and Rs. 1,21,427 were spent by the Education Department itself. The bulk of the amount made over to District Boards was allotted for the improvement of Primary Education.

The chief changes made in the staff during the year were the appointment of an Assistant Director of Public Instruction, and an increase in the number of Sub-Inspectors from 212 to 272. A special grant for the latter purpose was sanctioned by Government.

Collegiate education.

530. The total number of Arts Colleges in Bengal, during the year under review, was 45, as against 44 in the previous year; while the number of students declined from 8,150 to 8,030. The average cost of each student in Government Colleges was Rs. 204-11, of which Rs. 109-4-6 were paid by the State.

In the F.A. examination, the number of candidates fell from 3,645 to 3,579 (a decrease of 1·8 *per cent.*), while the percentage of successes showed a decline of 15·9. The total number of candidates for the B.A. examination was 1,711, as against 1,934 in the previous year; the number of successful candidates being 357, as compared with 439 in the previous year. At the B. Sc. examination, 19 candidates appeared, all from the Presidency College, Calcutta, of whom 8 were successful. The number of candidates at the M.A. examination was 190, as against 203 in the previous year; while 70 candidates passed, as against 84 in the previous year.

The number of institutions teaching law remained unchanged. Of the 17 Law classes, 7 were attached to Government Colleges, 9 to unaided colleges, and 1 was under municipal management. There was an increase of 4·9 per cent. in the attendance at these classes during the year. The total number of candidates at the B. L. examination held by the Calcutta University was 670, of whom only 18·5 per cent. came from institutions under public management. Students from public institutions were slightly less successful in the examination than students from private institutions.

The numbers on the rolls of the Medical College, Calcutta, during the year were 555. The expenditure on the College was Rs. 2,18,084, of which Rs. 1,84,600 were met from Provincial Revenues. There were four Government Vernacular Medical Schools as in the previous year, and they were attended by 670 pupils, of whom 33 were females. The annual cost per pupil in the four schools was Rs. 149-12, of which Rs. 118-7 was paid by the State.

For the encouragement of Sanskrit learning, Rs. 23,800 were provided in the budget estimates for the year. Two hundred and seventeen candidates (nearly all Brahmins) appeared at the Sanskrit Title examinations; of these 10 passed in the first division and 64 in the second.

Secondary education.

531. The number of secondary schools for Indian boys increased from 2,428 in 1901-1902 to 2,441 in the year 1902-1903; while the number of pupils attending them fell, in the same period, from 241,268 to 240,696. The total expenditure on these schools was Rs. 33,83,416, an increase of 3·3 per cent. on the previous year's figures.

The most noteworthy event in the history of Secondary education during the year was the issue of orders to the effect (1) that, after the year 1904, the Middle Scholarship examination should cease to be held as a public examination; (2) that, in lieu of it, private examinations should be arranged for by masters and managers of schools, aided or, in some cases, replaced by officers of the Education Department, and that such examinations should be held *in situ*, in the case of each school, at the end of the primary stage of education; and (3) that promotions from class to class in schools should be decided by the masters and

managers, subject to such control as is exercised at present in such matters by the inspecting officers of the Education Department.

During the year 1900-1901, commercial classes were opened in connection with five Government High schools; while elementary engineering, or technical, classes were opened in schools at various places where Technical schools were already in existence. After two years' working of the system, final examinations were held, for the first time, during the year under review. It is reported that, though the results were on the whole satisfactory, the teaching of most of the subjects leaves room for considerable improvement: steps are, it is stated, being taken to carry out the necessary reforms.

With the object of educating public opinion and of utilizing all the public spirit which exists in the cause of education, a scheme was sanctioned during the year, for the formation of school committees similar to those existing in the Central Provinces. It was decided that all Secondary schools, managed by Government or by District Boards and Municipalities, should have Visiting Committees, on which local residents, adequately representing the classes from which the students are drawn, should be invited to serve. The functions of such committees will be to offer advice on the general management of the schools, and their recommendations will be duly considered by the school authorities and the officers of the Education Department. Inasmuch as most of the Secondary schools, which are aided by Government, already have committees of management, it was considered sufficient to lay down, in the case of these schools, that the existing committees should be maintained, and that the members who serve on them should be selected so as to represent all classes of the community. The formation of committees for Upper Primary schools for boys was also approved; but it was deemed inexpedient to press a similar proposal in the case of Lower Primary schools. In addition to the development of the committees just referred to, it is proposed to legalize the status of the existing District Committees of Education, which have already been constituted, in most districts, in connection with the working of the District Boards, and to provide for the appointment to such committees of a certain proportion of residents of the district who are not members of the District Boards. The object of the latter provision is to ensure that all classes of the community shall be represented, and the District Boards have been asked to consider whether, if the proposed measure is passed, they should not appoint among the members, who do not belong to their own body, representatives of important minorities and associations, or specialists, so that all persons interested in the cause of education may have a voice in the educational policy of the district.

Technical and industrial education.

532. Technical education is imparted at the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, the Bihar School of Engineering, the Survey Schools at Dacca, Cuttack, and Angul, and also at schools affiliated to the Sibpur Civil Engineering College. In all these institutions, except the Bihar School of Engineering, there was an increase in the number of students. There were 25 industrial schools in existence during the year with an attendance of 701 students, as compared with 26 schools with 756 students in the previous year. Pending the orders of the Government of India on the report of the Committee on Industrial and Technical schools, which have recently been received, it was not thought advisable to enter upon any new developments in respect of these two classes of schools.

Primary education.

533. During the year under review, the number of Primary schools increased from 45,910 to 47,417 or by 3·2 *per cent.*, and the number of pupils attending them from 1,211,939 to 1,286,413, or by 6·1 *per cent.* The advance made, though not great, is satisfactory, and is due to the fact that considerable assistance has been afforded to District funds out of the ten lakhs Education grant which has been made over to this Government by the Government of India.

During the year, an important change was introduced in the system of remunerating teachers in Primary schools. These schools were formerly subsidised either by fixed stipends, or by rewards based on examinations held *in situ*, or by fixed stipends combined with rewards based on examination results. According to the present arrangements, on the other hand, aided schools will receive a monthly subsistence allowance, which will be supplemented by remuneration to be paid at the close of the year, the amount of this annual

grant being determined, in the case of each school, by (1) the number of pupils in regular attendance, (2) the efficiency of the teacher and of his teaching, (3) the state of the school-house and its appurtenances, (4) the income from fees, and (5) the state of education in the locality.

With the object of advancing primary education, a scheme for the establishment, at the head-quarters of each subdivision, of a Training school for the training of teachers in Primary schools, was sanctioned during the year. Such schools have been already opened in 79 subdivisions, and steps are being taken to establish the remainder before the close of the present year. These schools will, it is estimated, train at least 1,340 teachers every two years, and, in course of time, all Primary schools will thus be provided with duly qualified teachers.

In accordance with the wishes of the Government of India, an attempt has been made to open a certain number of "Continuation" schools, the object aimed at being to enable students to complete their education in branches of study which may either have been neglected or not attempted by them. It is reported that the schools of this class which have, hitherto, been established, are strictly speaking, Primary schools held at night, which provide instruction in elementary subjects to day-labourers and others who are debarred from attending Primary schools in the day-time. It is, however, hoped that some of these schools may, in the course of time, develop into Continuation schools in the proper sense of the term.

Education of females.

534. During the year under review, particular attention was paid to the backward state of female education; and various steps have been taken by Government with the object of advancing and encouraging it, among which may be mentioned the establishment of model Primary schools in several districts, the opening of a High English school at Chittagong, and the appointment of Hindu and Muhammadan female teachers for the extension of Zanana education among Hindus and Muhammadans respectively. As a result during the year under review, there has been a substantial increase both in the number of institutions for the education of females and in the number of pupils attending them. Gratifying, however, as this result is, the proportion of female scholars to the total number of girls of a school-going age (2·26) is still insignificant. Hopeful signs are not, however, altogether wanting. Two of the causes accounting for the slow progress of the education of females are the want of educated female teachers and the absence of a system for teaching zanana ladies. With the object of supplying the former deficiency, classes for the purpose of training female teachers were opened, during the year under review, in several High English and Mission schools. As regards the advancement of Zanana education, a conference of experienced educational officers was held during the year to consider what measures could be taken in this direction, and a scheme was formulated by them. This scheme contemplated (1) that Zanana education should be based on a system acceptable to native society, and be imparted through popular books of wholesome tendency, embodying Hindu and Muhammadan traditions; (2) that, in populous villages, small committees should be formed, to which respectable members of the orthodox classes of Hindus and Muhammadans should be appointed; and (3) that female teachers, working under the orders of these committees, should be appointed to teach zanana ladies in the villages. Since the close of the year, these proposals have been approved, as an experimental measure, and some progress has already been made in giving effect to them at selected places in the Province.

European Education.

535. There are 79 European schools in the Province. At the close of the year there were attending them 8,332 scholars; 273 being in Government schools, 6,582 in aided schools, and 1,477 in unaided schools. Out of the 8,332, 5,761 attend schools in Calcutta and Howrah. Over half of the total number of scholars attend Roman Catholic schools. The total expenditure upon European education amounted to Rs. 18,43,023, of which Government contributed 17·4 per cent.

Muhammadan Education.

536. The backwardness of Muhammadan education has hitherto been the subject of unfavourable comment, but during the year under review there was an increase of 5·8 per cent. in the number of Muhammadan pupils under instruction, as compared with an increase of 5·2 per cent. in the total number of pupils of all religions. This is at least an encouraging sign, and it is to be

hoped that it indicates a real and lasting awakening on the part of the community to the advantages of education.

Education of Aborigines.

537. Eight thousand three hundred and ninety-eight aboriginal Christians and 31,664 non-Christian aboriginals attended the various classes of institutions during the year. Of the total number, 21,561 attended schools in the Chota Nagpur Division.

Training Schools.

538. The total number of Training Institutions, including Training Schools for masters and mistresses and the Kurseong Training College, increased from 33 to 61, and their pupils from 1,285 to 1,471. The increase is due to the starting of Training Schools for Primary School teachers at each subdivisional headquarters, and to the opening of classes in connection with the Brahmo Balika Bidyalaya, and for the training of native mistresses. The total expenditure on training institutions was Rs. 1,40,747.

Miscellaneous.

539. The total number of hostels increased from 316 in 1901-02 to 363, and the number of students making use of them from 11,341 to 13,201. The total expenditure on the hostels was Rs. 8,96,854. Increased attention is being paid to physical and moral training. Discipline during the year was generally satisfactory.

Reformatory Schools.

[Annual Report on the Reformatory Schools at Alipore and Hazaribagh for 1902; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XI.]

Population.

540. The number of admissions during the year was 156, against 120 during the year 1901, while the number of boys in the schools at the end of the year was 454, as compared with 428 on the 31st December 1901. The increase in the annual number of admissions since 1899, when they amounted to 99 only, is very noticeable, but it is satisfactory to observe that the Boards of Management, with the object of ascertaining whether any of the boys admitted could not have been more suitably dealt with under the provisions relating to youthful offenders, as contained in the Criminal Procedure Code and Reformatory Schools Act, examined the admissions during the year under report, with the result that 12 boys, against 4 in 1901, were released. The judicial returns show that 274 youthful offenders were discharged on probation of good conduct under section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and that 39 boys were discharged after admonition or made over to parents and guardians under section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act.

Health, Discipline, and Education.

541. The health of the boys was, on the whole, satisfactory. The punishments imposed at the Alipore School were, as usual, much more numerous than at Hazaribagh. Boys received from the metropolitan area are, it is reported, less amenable to discipline than those from rural areas, and it has been found necessary to make provision at Alipore for the segregation of incorrigible offenders. Progress has been made as regards education at both the schools: at Alipore the Kindergarten system of teaching has been introduced, while the teaching staff has been strengthened and the school department has been reorganised. Physical development has received attention both at Alipore and Hazaribagh: it is expected that the extension of the compound of the former school, which has recently been sanctioned, will remove the difficulty which has been hitherto felt there as regards the want of a suitable play-ground.

Industries.

542. In accordance with the established policy of Government, boys of the agricultural classes were sent to the Hazaribagh School, where cultivation and market-gardening are specially taught, while boys belonging to the industrial castes were concentrated at the Alipore School, where they are instructed in various industries. The figures with regard to the occupations followed by boys after release are still very disappointing. Only 47 out of 151 boys released from the Alipore Reformatory during the three years preceding the year under report were, during that year, found to be engaged in the industries which they had been taught at school. Out of 227 boys released from the Hazaribagh School during the same period, only 17 out of 159 were employed in the trades which had been taught them: on the other hand, no less than 91 were engaged in agriculture, against 68 who had been trained to it, while 42 boys, who had not received any agricultural training, followed that calling on leaving the school.

Licensing.

543. It is gratifying to observe that the system of licensing out has been more extensively followed than in previous years. Besides the 18 boys already working under the license rules at the close of the year 1901, as many as 66 boys (48 from the Alipore and 18 from the Hazaribagh School) were licensed out, against 39 during the preceding year. In the case of the Alipore School it is to be regretted that no less than 16 of these boys were either rejected for bad work or threw up their positions voluntarily. The large proportion of failures shows that greater care must, in future, be exercised in the selection of boys for such employment. Notwithstanding this, the general results are decidedly hopeful, much of the success which has been secured in this matter being attributable to the assistance afforded by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.

Tracing of Discharged Boys.

544. There has been some improvement as regards following up the histories of boys for three years after their release; the percentage of failure to trace out such boys to the total number discharged having fallen to 20 per cent. in the year 1901, against 34 per cent. in 1899. The results, however, are still not as good as they might be.

Financial.

545. The net cost to Government during the year, on account of the Alipore School, was Rs. 24,477 against Rs. 17,651 in 1901, and that on account of the school at Hazaribagh Rs. 21,208 against Rs. 20,377 in 1901. The comparatively large increase in the cost of the Alipore School is, for the most part, due to the greater numbers confined at the school during the year.

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library.

546. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during the year was 3,366, as against 3,069 in 1901. Of these, 2,415 were books and 951 periodicals. The periodicals represent 114 distinct issues against 134 in the year before: 72 of them were in Bengali, and 29 in English.

Of the publications received, 28 were catalogued under 'Art,' 25 under 'Biography,' 88 under 'Drama,' 139 under 'Fiction,' 101 under 'History and Geography,' 515 under 'Language,' 73 under 'Law,' 180 under 'Medicine,' 965 under 'Miscellaneous,' 28 under 'Philosophy,' 200 under 'Poetry,' 1 under 'Politics,' 873 under 'Religion,' 148 under 'Science,' and 2 under 'Travels.'

Literature of the year.

547. The literature under 'Art' consists for the most part of elementary treatises on drawing, photography, and music. A few interesting Biographies were issued. The publications representing the literature under 'Drama' include seven translations, one of Shakespeare's King Lear, and another of Molière's Le Mariage Forcé. The social farces, which constitute for the most part the original dramatic work of the year, show generally no improvement either in tone or diction.

The Bengali fiction published during the year was of little merit. Under "History and Geography," little of importance was published. The literature under the head 'Language' consists for the most part of contributions to the controversy over 'classic' *versus* 'popular' Bengali. Three Pali publications are interestingas showing the increased attention now being paid to the study of Pali and Buddhist Scriptures. The works published under 'Law' consist, as usual, of reprints of acts of the Legislature in English, and translations of them in Bengali. The literature under 'Medicine' comprised a number of publications, more or less elementary in character, relating to the several systems of medicine practised in this country. Caste publications and discussions of social, economic, and educational topics constitute the bulk of the literature, under 'Miscellaneous;' writings on economic subjects deal mainly with the subject of famines and their causes. The 'Philosophy' of the year mostly confines itself to attempts to explain the Vedas and Sastras by the light of Western Science. Lyrics and sonnets in profusion with a sprinking of epic, comic, and didactic poetry make up the literature under the head of 'Poetry.' Most of the poems published, especially the lyrics and sonnets, are remarkable for nothing except their open defiance of grammar and idiom. Two or three important 'Scientific' publications were issued, but works under 'Politics' or 'Religion' were unimportant.

The most important of the publications issued by the Secretariat Book Depôt during the year were—(1) Memoranda of Midnapore, (2) Introduction to the Grammar of the Kui or Kundh language, (3) Tibetan Primer (2 Vols.), (4) Brief history of the Hooghly District, (5) several volumes relating to the Census of 1901, and (6) Government Circulars and Orders (2 Vols.).

548. Prosecutions for failure to register publications under Act XXV of 1867 as amended by Act X of 1890 were instituted in 19 and fines imposed in 14 cases. Working of Act XXV of 1867.

549. The number of native-owned English newspapers increased from 21 to 22, and of vernacular newspapers from 55 to 70, of which 53 were in Bengali. There were also four Anglo-Vernacular papers. The Native Press.

550. Comments in the Native Press on Foreign Politics chiefly related to the Boer war and the attitude of Russia. Considerable sympathy with the Boers was expressed during the early part of the year, but when peace was declared it was received with congratulatory articles, and the terms granted were generally acknowledged to be generous and honourable to both parties. Russian activities were discussed with some frequency, and intrigues on that nation's part were discerned in Afghanistan and Tibet.

General charges of ignorance, incompetence, corruption and oppression on the part of the police were reiterated with even greater vigour than in recent years, but the Police Commission appears to have engrossed most attention, and systems rather than individuals were attacked. The constitution of the Commission, and the terms of the Government's reference to it met with general disapproval, and most of the papers despaired of any good results coming from it. At the same time proposals for reform put forward for the consideration of the Commission were bewildering in number and variety. Of the remedies suggested, those finding most support were the separation of the Judicial and the Executive, and the larger employment of natives in the higher ranks of the police. Arrears and delays in the High Court attracted some comment, and the Criminal Courts generally as usual furnished the native Press with the greater part both of their news and of their leading articles, the most frequent references being to race partiality in European Judicial Officers, and the evils resulting from the combination of judicial and executive functions. The privilege of trial by jury appears to be highly valued by the native Press, but complaints of the hardship resulting to those who have to serve as Jurors were not infrequent. The constitution of the Universities Commission, and its Report were almost unanimously disapproved, especially recommendations in the latter for a change in the constitution of the Senate, for the raising of college fees, the closing of second-grade colleges, and for the raising of the standard of University examinations. The Resolution of the Government of India inviting the views of the various Local Governments and Administrations upon some of the Commission's recommendations was received with approval and relief. In matters of Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration, favourite topics were the ever-green question of water-supply in mufassal villages, and the alleged defects of the present Calcutta Municipal Act and its administration. The questions relating to Railway administration most freely discussed were the grievances of the Indian railway-travelling public, and the inadequacy of the salaries of native railway employés. The only point in connection with the Irrigation Commission to give rise to discussion was the comparative merits for irrigation purposes of canals, and tanks and wells.

The Press generally took the same unfavourable view of the financial condition of India as it had taken in the previous year, and found no grounds for satisfaction in the large surplus of six crores, which was ascribed to a fortuitous increase in three items of income, and an accidental decrease in military expenditure, owing to the absence of a large portion of the Indian Army in South Africa. A grant of Rs. 53,000 to the Indigo Planters' Association provided for in the Bengal Budget met with much hostile criticism. Legislative measures attracted little attention and even the important Civil Procedure Code Amendment Bill was unnoticed except by one obscure paper. Matters relating to Native States and their administration which came under discussion were the education of Native Princes on English methods, the status and powers of Political Officers in Native States, the leasing of the Berars and the Hill Tippera succession.

Louder and more general than any other complaint, even that of police oppression, was the complaint that the poverty of the Indian people is increasing under British rule, and it was a common reproach of the native Press throughout the year that Government did nothing to secure the improvement of agriculture, or the protection of indigenous industries. The Delhi Durbar came in for much criticism: the place and time at which it was held, the needlessness of the celebration, and above all its cost were all disapproved. Anticipations of the grant of some great political privilege at the Durbar were frequent, and when the concessions to be given were made known in the Durbar Speech, loud was the dissatisfaction expressed. The majority of the native papers appear to regard the Indian National Congress as having ceased to be an effective political force.

Pleasing features were the moderation with which the native Press discussed the terrible Malkowal disaster in the Punjab, and the sympathetic references to the deaths of the Marquis of Dufferin and Sir John Woodburn. The departure of Sir H. J. S. Cotton from India previous to retirement was marked by a number of highly eulogistic articles on his services to the Indian nation.

Literary Societies.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 321-22.

Arts and Sciences.

551. The attendance in the Government School of Art has increased from 228 to 230. The majority of the students attended the Practical or Industrial side. The practice in drawing and painting is now more systematic, the main object aimed at being the practical application of art to decoration. This system has proved so far successful that several passed students of the school have conjointly started a firm in Calcutta for undertaking stencilling, lacquer work, fresco decoration and other kinds of decorative painting. The old Indian process of fresco work is also taught in the school. A large lacquered screen designed in the class and executed by the students, was exhibited at the Delhi Durbar Art Exhibition and obtained a bronze medal. The work of drawing and painting from "life," "still-life," &c., was carried on by the students attending the "Fine Art Section" of this school. A student was awarded a silver medal at the Delhi Durbar Exhibition for an original painting called the "Last Hours of Shajehan."

The total expenditure on the Government School of Art during the year was Rs. 29,427, of which Rs. 25,099 were paid from Provincial revenues. Two unaided Arts Schools at Calcutta were attended by 118 students. A new Art School has been returned from the district of Jessore. It is maintained by the District Board, the subject taught being the art of weaving with the fly-shuttle loom.

552. An attempt was made to introduce the fly-shuttle loom among the Santipore weavers, following the lines recommended by Mr. Havell, Principal of the Calcutta School of Art. The attempt was not attended with success, because the weaver, who was selected to learn the art, was not sufficiently well taught. The experiment has not, however, been abandoned.

553. It has been noticed in the Report for 1901-1902 that in connection with the scheme for the bifurcation of studies in High schools, B and C classes were opened in 1900-1901 in some High schools under public management. The B classes were started in places where technical schools were already in existence, as the course of instruction in them comprises elementary engineering and subjects intended for technical education. After two years' working of this system, final examinations for both these classes were held at certain centres. The number of students competing at the B class examination was 67, of whom 25 passed: 14 of these obtained junior scholarships, all tenable at the

Civil Engineering College at Sibpur. Of 17 candidates at the C class examination, six only were successful, four obtaining scholarships. The passed students have joined the Commerical classes lately opened in the Presidency College.

It may be stated that these examinations, like the Entrance examination of the Calcutta University, are held at the conclusion of the pupil's school career, but are conducted by the Education Department.

554. The year is remarkable for the practical introduction, in primary and secondary schools, of the new scheme of vernacular education, under which the teaching of elementary science has been extended and systematised. To facilitate the teaching of arts and sciences, considerable expenditure has been incurred from the public funds for the supply of appliances to educational institutions of various grades.

555. The attendance in the Institutions teaching engineering and surveying, shows an increase from 619 to 654. Industrial schools decreased by one. Four Commercial schools, all working in the town of Calcutta, were attended by 262 students.

556. The District Board at Nadia has founded seven scholarships (four for Hindus and three for Muhammadans), tenable for two years, with a view to enable the holders to undergo a course of training in the Railway workshop at Kanchrapara. It is also worth noticing that this District Board has sent a young potter who read up to the Entrance standard, to the Bombay School of Art to receive training in drawing and designing. The whole cost (Rs. 29 a month) of his education in Bombay is borne by the District Fund.

557. At the B. Sc. examination, nineteen candidates appeared from the Presidency College, of whom eight passed. The scholar from this College who was elected to the Premchand Roychand studentship was examined in science. Of the two Research students re-elected from March 1903, one will carry on his researches in Physics in the Presidency College, and the other in Petrology in the Geological Survey Laboratory. Three new Research scholars were elected during the year under report.

558. Technical and Commercial classes were also opened in connection with certain schools for Europeans. The subjects taught in these schools for males are type-writing, short-hand, telegraphy and book-keeping, while in girls' schools, dress-making, plain and fancy-needle work, cooking and household duties have been added. Arrangements are being made for opening a commercial and technical class in connection with the Boys' School at Kurseong.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

559. Good progress was made with the work of restoration and preservation of the ruins at Gaur and Panduah.

The work of removing the sand and fallen stones from the Black Pagoda at Kanarak was in progress, as also other work in connection with the preservation of the buildings. The inside of the Jag Mohun was packed with stones to a height of 14 feet to form the base of a proposed central column; the eastern side was entirely cleared of sand; the basement on three sides was exposed; and some fine stone masonry was executed in order to restore its face at certain places. The Bhagmandap was disinterred.

Special repairs to the temples and other works of archæological interest at Bhubaneswar in the Puri district were completed. Photo-prints have been obtained of the temples for publication with explanatory notes.

At Vishnupur special repairs were done to the Jore Bungalow Temple.

The restoration of the Rohtas Palace and of some of the outlying temples, mosques, and tombs on the hills was carried out. An inspection bungalow has been built near the Rohtas Palace for the accommodation of tourists.

The mass of stones and rubbish around the Mandheshwari Temple, near Bhabua, have been removed and the remains of the walls are now visible.

The replica in marble of the Holwell Monument presented by the Viceroy to the City of Calcutta, was erected at the north-west corner of Dalhousie Square at a cost of Rs. 28,626.

The throne of King Thebaw was brought from Burma, and erected in the Economic and Art Section of the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

Steps were taken to commemorate the houses in Calcutta, and in other places in Bengal, where distinguished public men, European and Indian, formerly resided.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGE 325.

Ecclesiastical.

560. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal, during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Lord Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese and Archdeaconry of Calcutta, the most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S.J., 14 chaplains of the Church of England, 2 chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 13 ministers of the Additional Clergy Society or other Societies and 7 priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Stationery Department.

[Report from the Superintendent of Stationery for 1902-1903.]

561. There was a balance of stationery stores of Rs. 10,09,053 at the beginning of the year. Stores to the value of Rs. 4,94,579 were received from England, and those purchased in India amounted to Rs. 27,09,551. The total issues were Rs. 34,41,075, leaving a balance, at the end of the year, of Rs. 11,11,655. The issues show a slight decrease due to a reduction in the prices of both imported and locally manufactured stores.

Printing.

[Report of Superintendent of Government Printing, Bengal, for 1902-1903.]

562. The several Printing Presses under the Government of Bengal show a total profit of Rs. 90,098, as compared with Rs. 80,676 in the previous year.

A small committee appointed by the Government of India sat in Calcutta at the beginning of 1903 to consider the possibility of effecting improvements in the Stationery and Printing Departments, either by amalgamation of the two in charge of an expert with experience of printing work, or in any other way. Final orders on the recommendations of the Committee have as yet not issued.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for 1902; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section VIII, Medico-Legal Investigations.]

563. There were 4,450 analyses performed in 1902 against 4,878 in 1901; of these 1,821 were in the General, and 2,629 in the Medico-Legal Department. The work of the former Department, which ranges over a great variety of subjects, decreased by 537 cases, owing partly to the fact that Customs sugar is no longer sent for polarisation, and partly to the smaller number of cases of spirit determination sent by the Customs Department. Medico-legal cases, on the other hand, increased by 109, chiefly in the matter of the analysis of human poisoning, the viscera of 556 individuals being examined as compared with 414 in 1901. Poison was detected in 46·40 per cent. of the cases; the most common poison was opium, found in 172 cases. The viscera of 198 horned cattle were examined, poison being detected in 66·66 per cent. of the cases. One hundred

and forty samples of drinking water were analysed; of these 41 were classed as suspicious or impure. Signal instances of particularly impure water were samples of well water from the Bengal Provincial Camp at the Delhi Durbar, and from the Commissioner's compound at Jalpaiguri.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, and of the Bengal Veterinary College for 1902-1903.]

Veterinary Dispensaries and Veterinary Assistants.

564. During the year under review, the work of the Department was extended to the Chota Nagpur Division, where two new dispensaries were opened, viz., one at Ranchi and the other at Daltonganj, the total number of dispensaries in Bengal open at the close of the year being 20. There was a very large increase in the number of animals treated at these institutions, the number of in-patients received having been 903, as against 737 in the previous year, and that of out-patients 24,911, as against 8,892 in the same year. There was also a remarkable increase in the number of cases treated in the villages by itinerating Veterinary Assistants, the large total of 21,439 having been reached during the year, as against 7,346 in the year 1901-1902. Seven additional itinerant Veterinary Assistants were appointed during the year under review, but the demand for qualified men exceeded the supply, and the requisitions of several districts could not be complied with.

Epidemic Diseases.

565. During the year 57 animals were admitted into the Belgachia Contagious Diseases Hospital, as against 33 in the year 1901-1902; of these, 51, which were found to be suffering from glanders, either were destroyed or died of the disease. Besides these cases, the Superintendent of the Veterinary Department reports that no less than 319 animals were found to be suffering from this malady at the Sodepore Pinjrapole, which receives nearly all its inmates from Calcutta. As mentioned in last year's report, the introduction of the Glanders and Farcy Act, XIII of 1899, into Calcutta, owing to the heavy increase of expenditure involved, has had to be deferred pending the revision of the Provincial contract. The figures quoted above show that glanders is rife in Calcutta, and indicate that the introduction of the Act is a contingency which must be provided for in the near future.

The number of cases of cattle-disease reported in the districts shows a slight decrease in comparison with the figures of the previous year, but there were severe outbreaks of rinderpest in Khulna, Backergunge and Palamau, in each of which districts the number of cattle attacked exceeded 4,000. Owing to the inadequacy of the staff, the number of cattle immunised during the year was smaller than in the preceding year, the total number operated upon having been 11,472, as against 12,829 in the year 1901-1902. There was no friction between the operators and the owners of the cattle immunised. Instruction in rinderpest inoculation was given during the year at Muktesar to 23 Veterinary Assistants, who were all passed by the Imperial Bacteriologist as duly qualified.

Improvement of Stock.

566. The Government of India, in commenting on the report of the Department for last year, discouraged the introduction of foreign stock and directed that the efforts of the Department should be specially directed towards the improvement of indigenous breeds of cattle. These orders are being borne in mind, and in the instructions issued to the Judging Committees at the various local fairs, great stress is laid upon the importance of encouraging local breeding and the improvement of indigenous stock.

The Veterinary College.

567. Thirty students prosecuted their studies throughout the year in the three classes of the College: of these, all but two were successful at the annual and final examinations. Revised rules for the admission of students to the College and of animals into the Veterinary Hospital attached to it were approved by Government and published during the year.

Belgachia Infirmary.

568. The total number of cases treated in the infirmary during the year was 2,385, showing an increase of 427 over the figures of the previous year; while 623 operations were performed, as against 473 in the year 1900-1901. It is satisfactory to observe that the reduction of fees, which was made last year with the object of encouraging the poorer classes to avail themselves of the benefits of the infirmary, resulted in a large increase in the number of

horses and cattle treated as in-patients. A special grant of Rs. 29,765 was sanctioned during the year in order to provide much-needed additional accommodation in the hospital: the new buildings were under construction at the close of the year.

569. The Provincial cost of the Department exceeded that of last year by nearly Rs. 13,000. The increase was mainly caused by an increase in the cost of feeding, due to the admission of a larger number of animals at lower rates. Financial.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Administration Report of the Zoological Garden, Calcutta, for 1902-1903.]

570. The most important donation of the year was one by the Maharaja Manindra Nath Nundy, of Cossimbazar, of Rs. 12,031, being the entire cost of rebuilding the Sornamoyi house. The total donations and subscriptions amounted to Rs. 2,11,450. The number of visitors (excluding students under age, children, etc.) rose to 203,589, and the total entrance receipts were Rs. 15,615 against Rs. 14,242 in the previous year. The total expenditure was Rs. 71,652. The numbers of mammals, birds, and reptiles in the Garden were, respectively, 504, 810 and 246.

Miscellaneous.

571. During the year sanction was received to the appointment of four additional Subordinate Judges, and to the provision of the necessary ministerial establishments for their Courts. Sanction was also accorded to the regrading of Munsifs with a view to raising the average pay of officers of the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Service to the level of the average pay of officers in the Executive Branch of the same service. This result was attained by raising the numbers in the first three grades, and substantially reducing those in the 4th or last grade. Reorganization of the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service.

572. An examination for these services was held in April 1902. One hundred and sixty-eight candidates appeared, of whom 15 were Muhammadans, 9 Bihari Hindus, 5 Uriyas, 2 Eurasians, and 1 Native Christian. Eight candidates received appointments as Probationary Deputy Collectors, of whom one was a Bihari Hindu, and another a Bihari Muhammadan. Three candidates were selected as Probationary Sub-Deputy Collectors. Examination for the Provincial and Subordinate Civil Services.

573. The Imperial Durbar held at Delhi on the 1st January 1903 to celebrate the Coronation of Their Imperial Majesties King Edward VII, Emperor of India, and Queen Alexandra was attended by the Lieutenant-Governor and 115 guests invited by him, as representative—of the official and non-official communities in Bengal. Sixty-one European guests were entertained in the Lieutenant-Governor's Camp, and fifty-four Indian guests in the Bengal Provincial Camp. The arrangements made for both camps were eminently successful. Coronation Celebrations.

In the Province Coronation Day was celebrated with much enthusiasm everywhere. Local Durbars were held at the head-quarters of each district at which the Royal Proclamation was read both in English and the vernacular and certificates of honour were distributed. Prayers were offered up by all sects and communities for the long life and happy reign of Their Majesties. The poor, the inmates of hospitals and jails and school-children were fed, and at night the public buildings were illuminated. Three thousand three hundred and thirty-eight prisoners were released from the jails.

The arrangements made for the celebration of the Coronation festivities in Calcutta are described under the Calcutta Municipality in paragraph 216.

The celebrations in Native States are described in Chapter I under 'Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.'

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